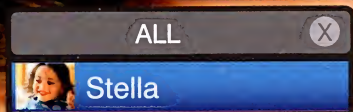


SUPERCARGE YOUR WEB BROWSER

A U S T R A L I A N

Macworld



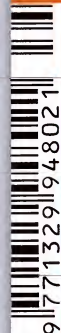
**FACE
TO FACE**

iLife'09 and iWork'09

24IN LED CINEMA DISPLAY | DROPBOX | LOGINCONTROL | NIKON COOLPIX

WWW.MACWORLD.COM.AU 03.2009

March 2009
\$6.95 inc GST
\$NZ6.50 inc GST





Everything Mac. Everything iPod.

Apple Premium Resellers live and breathe the Mac. They'll help you choose the model that's best for you and get you set up with the software and accessories you'll need. Same with iPod. Premium Resellers offer the complete range, along with a great selection of add-on products that let you enjoy your music wherever you go.

Practical advice, in-store demonstrations and events that showcase the very best from Apple.



Premium Reseller



ACT Mac 1 Canberra City. Mac 1 Fyshwick.

NSW Comp Now North Sydney. Complete Computer Centre Wagga. Digital Appeal Central Coast. Digital Appeal Tuggerah. Mac 1 Burwood. Mac 1 Hamilton. Mac 1 Wollongong. Maccentric Chatswood. Maccentric Warringah Mall. My Mac Academy Bondi. Next Byte Balmain. Next Byte Baulkham Hills. Next Byte Broadway. Next Byte Castle Hill. Next Byte Macquarie Centre. Next Byte Pitt Street. Next Byte Rushcutters Bay. Next Byte Sydney CBD.

QLD Mac 1 New Farm. Next Byte Brisbane CBD. Next Byte Charlotte Street. Next Byte Surfers Paradise. Next Byte Toowoomba.

SA Mac Centre Norwood. Next Byte Adelaide CBD. Next Byte Glenunga.

TAS Next Byte Hobart. The Mac Shop Launceston.

VIC Beyond the Box Moonee Ponds. Comp Now Chadstone. Comp Now Chapel Street. Comp Now Malvern.

Comp Now South Melbourne. Comp Now Westfield Doncaster. Comp Now Westfield Geelong. My Mac Melbourne. Next Byte Bourke Street. Next Byte Elizabeth Street. Next Byte Ivanhoe. Next Byte Knox City. Next Byte Westfield Southlands. Pentagon Digital Mont Albert.

WA MacWorx Joondalup. Next Byte Carousel. Next Byte Nedlands.

For more information see www.apple.com.au/buy/apr/

Two A4 Great Xerox Offers!

Two fantastic Xerox printer offers on A4 Colour laser printers for the office or home. But hurry, once current stocks have gone, the prices will go up due to the current exchange rate!



C1110N Specifications

- 600 x 600 DPI Full Color Laser Printing
- Postscript Level 3, 128MB RAM
- Single sided printing
- 10/100 Ethernet Network
- 12ppm Colour / 16ppm Black
- Approx 18c per colour page (based on 20% CMYK Coverage)

Free Delivery within Australia

Special Offer \$495 inc gst

FUJI XEROX 

1. Inc Free Extra Black Toner worth \$98 RRP



C3210 Specifications

- 1200 x 1200 DPI Full Color Laser Printing
- Postscript Level 3, 640 MB RAM
- Duplex (Auto 2 sided printing)
- 10/100 Ethernet Network
- 25ppm Colour / 30ppm Black
- First Page out - Less than 17 seconds
- Low Running Costs 12c per colour page based on 20% coverage. Less than 2c for B&W prints at 5% coverage.* High yield C3210 toners give you 6,000 colour and 8,000 black pages of printing

Free Delivery within Australia

Special Offer \$999 inc gst

FUJI XEROX 

NOTE: If you are feeding an inkjet printer one set of inks a month, these Xerox colour laser printers could pay for themselves within months.

Includes 3 Extra Offers

1. Free Upgrade to 640MB Ram Worth \$699 RRP

As Per Xerox Price List July 2008 - 5 times the standard RAM



2. Free Set of Toners with a trade-in

Trade In any networkable laser printer, and receive a Free set of 4 colour toners (claimed online directly from Xerox)



3. Order a 2nd Set of Extra Toners for only \$299

Note: Limited to one extra set at the time of purchase for \$299.



No surcharge for Visa and Mastercard

www.designwyse.com.au

Prices subject to change without notice. E&OE *Based on 5% coverage per colour. Supplied with full standard size toners. Offer toners are full standard size

Mac Pro "Save Money" Bundles - Double the Ram

Hurry! Sale Now Ends 27th March 2009

Save money with these great Mac Pro Bundles from Designwyse. We'll double the standard Ram for free, offer alternative high quality Samsung displays and do it all at a huge discount compared to Apple's website. Hurry, these Bundles are at old dollar prices and the offer ends March 27th 09 . . . while stocks last!



Hurry!
This is
30% Cheaper
Than
USA Pricing**

Double RAM Bundle 4G RAM

Mac Pro 2.8 GHz Eight Core Xeon 4GB RAM /320 GB
Don't Pay \$4709* Inc GST

Pay Only \$3,895 Inc GST

Save \$814



22" Display
(1680 x 1050)
3 Yr Warranty

Double RAM 22" Bundle 4G RAM & 22" Display

Mac Pro 2.8 GHz Eight Core Xeon 4GB RAM/320GB HD
Plus Samsung 22" LCD HD Display (1680 x 1050) 3 yr Wty
DON'T PAY \$5,608# Inc Gst

Pay Only \$4,395 Inc GST

Save \$1,213



24" Display
(1920 x 1200)
3 Yr Warranty

Double RAM 24" Bundle 4G RAM & 24" Display

Mac Pro 2.8 GHz Eight Core Xeon 4GB RAM/320GB HD
Plus Samsung 24" LCD HD Display (1920 x 1200) 3 yr Wty
DON'T PAY \$6,207# Inc Gst

Pay Only \$4,650 Inc GST

Save \$1,557

Add \$2050 for Apple 30" Display Bundle

Mac Pro Bundle - Options

	Inc GST		Inc GST
Apple 20" Cinema Display (1680 x 1050)	\$865	Extra 1.5 TB External SATA/FWire Hard Drive	\$560
Apple 30" Cinema Display (2560 x 1600)	\$2700	Harman Kardon Sound Sticks 3 pce Spkr	\$395
Extra 500GB Internal SATA Hard Drive	\$172	AppleCare Ext 3yr Onsite Wty	\$390
Extra 1 TB Internal SATA Hard Drive	\$275	WyseCare 10 Half Hr Onsite Service Vchrs	\$750

Order \$10K plus & Claim a 10% Investment Allowance ## Visa/MC - No surcharge

All prices include Gst. # Pricing of the closest matching configuration on Apple's webstore. All models include Apple Keyboard, Mouse and Mac OSX 10.5 Leopard. Prices subject to change without notice. ## Call for full details on Rudd Govt Investment allowance scheme - must be purchased before 30th June 09. E&OE. Available only while stocks last. Payment by Cash, Credit Card, Bank Transfer, Flexirent, Finance or accounts where applicable. ** Based on exchange rate of 65c and USA price of \$US3,299 = \$A5,067 Ex Gst compared with our price of \$3540 Ex Gst



Other World Computing

Serving the Mac Universe since 1988

Visit: www.macsales.com or Call: 815.338.8685

Products That Make Your Mac® Faster and Better



www.macsales.com

At OWC Our Customers Come 1st!

Quality Products

Competitive Prices

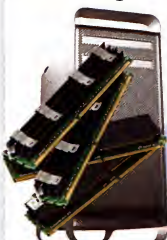
Expert Support

More Memory = Faster Mac

Use our online memory guide at www.macsales.com/memory

Apple® Mac Pro XEON™ – Max any model up to 32GB!

Get the right memory for any 2006/2007/2008 Model



As low as **\$24.50** per GB

Detail of Apple-Qualified
OWC heat spreaders for
Mac Pro Quad Xeon.

1GB Module Kits
for up to 8GB

2GB Module Kits
for up to 16GB

4GB Module Kits
for up to 32GB MAX!

4GB Kit (2GB Modules x 2) from **\$97.99**

32GB Kit (4GB Modules x 8) from **\$979.99**

Upgrade:

• 667MHZ &
800MHZ Models

• 2.0GHz, 2.66GHz, 2.8GHz, 3.0GHz, and 3.2GHz
Quad-Core, Quad Core x 2 (8-Core) – all models

Memory for iMac, MacBook, MacBook Pro, Mac mini (Intel)

2.0GB from **\$27.99**

4.0GB Kits from **\$54.99**

6.0GB Kits from **\$219.99**

NEW! 8.0GB Kits (for 2009 "Unibody" 17" Only)

\$699.99

Featured!
iMac® &
MacBook
Memory

Up to
8.0GB!

We have the right memory for your Mac

From 68020 to PPC to Intel®, From Classic to Pro—OWC has the Right Memory for all the Latest Macs and nearly Every Mac!

Free Step-by-Step Do It Yourself Installation Videos: It's easy to add memory and free step-by-step OWC Online Videos show you how! www.macsales.com/install-videos

"That's a great deal!"

—Dave Hamilton, Mac Observer



Our online guide makes getting that right memory for your Mac easy.

www.macsales.com/memory

All OWC memory meets or exceeds manufacturer specifications for maximum quality assurance, but at the independent prices you can afford. Plus, you receive the industry-leading Lifetime Advance Replacement Warranty and award-winning US-based customer support.

Mac SuperDrive DVD+CD Burning Solutions

Create with Apple iDVD®, Apple DVD Player, Apple DVD Studio Pro®, Apple iMovie®, Apple Disc Burner, EMC® Retrospect®, Apple iTunes®, Roxio® Toast®, Apple iPhoto®, Prosoft, and NTI™ Dragon Burn.

www.macsales.com/superdrives



Internal Solutions
from **\$27.99**



External Solutions
from **\$71.99**



Blu-ray Solutions
now from **\$114.99**

OWC Mercury Pro Blu-ray Burner/SuperDrive
Dual-Layer w/Roxio Toast only **\$479.99**

FireWire® 800/400+USB2.0+eSATA
The First and Only Quad Interface
Performance Optical Solution



Your Online Mac Upgrade Center

SATA Internal Hard Drives

www.macsales.com/harddrive



3.5" SATA drives for Mac desktops/towers
Up to 2.0TB drives NOW IN STOCK!
500GB from **\$59.00**

HITACHI

Seagate
Premier Partner

PATA/
IDE Also
Available!

2.5" SATA drives for most 2006 and later
Apple & PC laptops including MacBook® Pros
Up to 500GB 5400RPM; Up to 500GB 7200RPM
320GB now from **\$64.99**



newer technology

USB 2.0 Universal Drive Adapter™

www.macsales.com/newertech

The Swiss Army Knife of Disk Connectivity
Access data/transfer files from ANY 2.5", 3.5",
and 5.25" drive with fast, Plug and Play ease!

only
\$29.99



Controller Cards

www.macsales.com/hdcontroller

IDE/ATA & SATA PCI/PCMCIA/
Express34/PCI-Express Hard Drive
Controller Cards for Macs
Starting from **\$18.99**



Upgrade/Add FireWire 800 to
G3/G4/G5 Power Macs

FireWire 800 PCI/PCI-X Special **\$22.95**

Add More, faster drives to your Mac

IDE/ATA/SATA Controller Cards
from **\$55.00**



NewerTech® Products

www.macsales.com/newertech

OWC® is proud to be the #1 distributor of NewerTech products

NewerTech Voyager™

NEW!

SATA I/II Hard Drive Docking Solutions

The Easiest Way To Access Data
From ANY 2.5" or 3.5" Serial ATA
(SATA) Hard Drive Up To 2.0TB!

- Fully bootable external drive solution.
- Swap drives at will.
- Plug and Play with all connector cables included.



Voyager Q
FW800/400/
USB 2.0/eSATA
only **\$99.95**

"Remarkably Convenient" - Macworld



Voyager S2
USB 2.0+eSATA
only **\$59.99**



NewerTech 11 Piece Portable Toolkit

Everything you need to service/upgrade
desktop and notebook computers as well as
small consumer electronics devices like iPods.

only
\$17.95



**NewerTech Intelligent
Battery Charging
Station 2-Bay Battery
Charger + Conditioner.**
from **\$149.95**

from **\$19.99**



NuPower® Batteries for Apple Laptop and iPod®

NuPower

The highest capacity replacement
batteries for PowerBook and
iBook PERIOD! from **\$89.99**



Up to
64.5% More
Capacity!

*** Battery capacity gains are compared
vs. original Apple factory included battery

Featured Software

www.macsales.com/software



Drive Genius 2
Maintain, manage, optimize,
and repair your hard drive.
for **\$59.99**

PROSOFT
engineering inc.



Data Rescue II
The best data recovery utility on
the market for recovering files
from a problem hard drive.
for **\$59.99**

Other World Computing



Backed By Insanely Great Service & FREE Lifetime Support

815.338.8685

Learn more about OWC's new 'Green' Headquarters.
Conservation & Recycling for a greener tomorrow
<http://www.macsales.com/LEED/>

Orders ship from USA with
extremely competitive
shipping rates. All prices
quoted in US dollars.

Customer Quote CORNER

"I recommend your company to friends on a constant basis: I thought it was just because of your expert expediting... Not so - it's also your PEOPLE!"

-Michael D.,
Toronto, ON, Canada

External Storage Solutions

Software
Included
\$200
Value

All OWC & NewerTech configured external drive solutions come ready to Plug and Play with all interface connection cables, include full versions of Intech® HD Speedtools™, NovaStor NovaBACKUP®, and Prosoft Data Backup 3, and are Leopard™ Time Machine™ ready.

NEW!
Quad
Interface



Award Winning Solutions from OWC & NewerTech - Quality, Performance, Reliability make OWC & NewerTech storage a world apart.

Visit www.macsales.com/storage for all available options.



OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro™

3 Year Solution Warranty

All Mercury Elite-AL Pro™ models are ideally configured for audio/video, digital photography, professional music, graphics, general data and backup applications.

Available from 80GB to 2.0TB!

Size	Speed	Data Buffer	FW400+USB 2.0	FW800/FW400/USB 2.0/eSATA
320GB	7200RPM	16MB	\$97.99	\$127.99
500GB	7200RPM	16MB	\$109.99	\$139.99
1.0TB	7200RPM	16MB	\$154.99	\$187.99
1.0TB	7200RPM	32MB	\$179.99	\$209.99
1.5TB	7200RPM	32MB	\$229.99	\$259.99

OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro Qx2™

3 Year Solution Warranty

Selectable Hardware RAID 0, 1, 5, 10 & span modes. Sustained data transfer rates up to 230MB/s. Perfect for A/V, HD-video, redundant backup, & more! Up to 8.0TB, Starting from \$699.99 for 2.0TB

Available from 1.0TB to 8.0TB!

FireWire 800/400, USB 2.0, eSATA 'Quad-Interface'

OWC Mercury Rack Pro™

4 Bay, 1U Rack Solutions

Available from 640GB to 8.0TB!

JBOD or Hardware RAID options 0, 1, 5, 10 available! Up to 8.0TB of Performance RAID/RAID-READY storage from \$499.99

FireWire 800/400, USB 2.0, and/or eSATA interface models
2 Year Standard Solution OR 5 Year Enterprise Solution Warranty

OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro Dual Drive RAID

3 Year Solution Warranty

RAID-0 Striped Solutions ideal for demanding audio/video, editing, data processing, and any application where higher performance provides a benefit.

NEW FireWire 800/400+USB 2.0+eSATA 'Quad Interface' Models!

Size	Speed	Data Buffer	FW800/FW400+USB 2.0	FW800/FW400/USB 2.0/eSATA
1.0TB Striped	7200RPM	32MB	\$229.99	\$259.99
1.5TB Striped	7200RPM	64MB	\$299.99	\$339.99
2.0TB Striped	7200RPM	64MB	\$379.99	\$419.99
3.0TB Striped	7200RPM	64MB	\$449.99	\$479.99

NewerTech Guardian MAXimus®

"A Sweet, Virtually Problem-Free Back-up Strategy." - MyMac.com

Available from 250GB+250GB to 2.0TB+2.0TB!

Provides "Live Activity" backup/data redundancy of your critical data.

3 Year Solution Warranty

Size	Speed	Data Buffer	FW800/FW400+USB 2.0
500GB+500GB (Mirrored) Drives	7200RPM	32MB	\$239.99
750GB+750GB (Mirrored) Drives	7200RPM	64MB	\$329.99
1.0TB+1.0TB (Mirrored) Drives	7200RPM	64MB	\$395.99
1.5TB+1.5TB (Mirrored) Drives	7200RPM	64MB	\$499.99

NewerTech miniStack®

Up to 1.5TB of performance storage + integrated space saving powered FW/USB 2.0 hub!

3 Year Solution Warranty

Size	Speed	Data Buffer	FW400+USB 2.0	FW800/FW400/USB 2.0/eSATA
250GB	7200RPM	16MB	\$114.99	\$135.99
320GB	7200RPM	16MB	\$117.99	\$139.99
500GB	7200RPM	16MB	\$129.99	\$154.99
1.0TB	7200RPM	16MB	\$174.99	\$199.99
1.0TB	7200RPM	32MB	\$199.99	\$224.99
1.5TB	7200RPM	32MB	\$249.99	\$279.99

OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro Dual+Hub

3 Year Solution Warranty

High-capacity + convenient powered USB 2.0 hub ports for easy connection of flash drives, iPods, bus-powered hard drives, etc. Time Machine ready + great for audio/video libraries, photos, music, backup, and more!

Available from 500GB to 4.0TB!

Size	Speed	Data Buffer	USB 2.0+HUB
1.0TB	7200RPM	32MB	\$174.99
2.0TB	7200RPM	32MB	\$249.99
3.0TB	7200RPM	64MB	\$379.99

OWC Mercury On-The-Go Pro™

Portable Solutions

Fast, Reliable, Bus-Powered Plug and Play

"...performs at some of the fastest speeds we've seen in a portable drive." - Macworld

Compact and versatile—powers right away via FireWire or USB 2.0 interface, no external power required!

Available from 80GB to 500GB!

3 Year Solution Warranty

Size	RPM	Speed	Cache	USB 2.0 Only	FW400+USB 2.0	FW800/400+USB 2.0
120GB	5400	8MB		\$74.99	\$95.99	\$114.99
250GB	5400	8MB		\$87.99	\$107.99	\$127.99
320GB	5400	8MB		\$97.99	\$119.99	\$139.99
500GB	5400	8MB		\$147.99	\$167.99	\$187.99

Fastest 7200RPM Bus-Powered Solutions On the Market

Size	RPM	Speed	Cache	FW400+USB 2.0	FW800/400+USB 2.0/eSATA
250GB	7200	16MB		\$97.99	\$119.99
320GB	7200	16MB		\$119.99	\$139.99
500GB	7200	16MB		\$179.99	\$199.99

Build your own drive!

www.macsales.com/storage

0GB 'Add your own hard drive' kits available from \$27.95

Certain OWC & NewerTech kits include Prosoft Engineering® Data Backup 3, NovaStor NovaBACKUP®, & Intech SpeedTools Utilities...\$200 Value!

Meet Bento[®] 2

The new personal database from FileMaker that's as easy to use as a Mac.



All together now.



Bring together Address Book, iCal, Mail, and more!

Now you can organize your important information—from contacts and calendars, to emails and events, to files and photos—all in one place.



The perfect complement to your spreadsheet.

If you're managing lists in Microsoft Excel or iWork Numbers, you can easily bring them into Bento to view your information in beautiful Bento forms, get easy iTunes-style searching, instant sorting, quick summary stats, and much more!



Get organized with style.

Even if you're brand new to the Mac community or to databases, it's never been easier to get organized thanks to ready-to-use templates and elegant themes designed by Mac artists.

Buy Bento at a store near you, or visit www.filemaker.com.au/bentoMac to buy Online - Only AU\$79

⌘-A

012 Chris Oaten

Help us to help you

⌘-V

015 AMW readers

25 years of Mac. Share your stories with the rest of the world.

⌘-I

030 Danny Gorog

Boxee reveals new video solutions

⌘-K

032 David Holloway

Your place in the social revolution

⌘-Y

038 Martin Levins

Let's talk about security, shall we?

⌘-L

042 Michael Jenkin

The network is cloudy, becoming fine.

⌘-O

060 Keith White

This month, two Mac documentaries.

At least one should be in your DVD library.

⌘-Q

078 The back page

Marketing is key, eh? Tell 'em they're dreamin'.

⌘-N

019 What you need to know

Apple's executive team shoots, and scores. A 14th record-setting quarterly period gives Apple COO Tim Cook the confidence to shoot from the hip about Apple's immediate future, sans Steve Jobs.

021 Warming to anti-virus, Chumby's new Aussie flavour.

022 The news from NAMM.

⌘-1

034 Supercharge your browser

Rob Griffiths

Your preferred browser is one of the most used applications on your Mac. Here's how to take your web browsing to the next level.

⌘-2

040 Gadget Central

Nab a stylish new laptop bag in our five-week giveaway.

⌘-3

044 iLife and iWork evolve
Macworld editors

Our first look at how Apple's digital lifestyle and productivity apps can change the way you use your Mac.



⌘-?

- 051** Fixing startup problems
- 054** Digital imaging using your scanner
- 057** Understanding Finder views
- 059** Reader tip

⌘-J

063 Apple 24in LED Cinema Display

New display is ideal for MacBook owners

product

⌘⌘⌘

064 Calabration

Google calendars work with iCal

⌘⌘ 1/2

Hand to Hand Combat

Keynote Remote faces off against Stage Hand in the battle of the iPhone presenters

⌘⌘

066 LoginControl

Take a broom to login items

⌘⌘

067 Missing Sync

Fills the syncing gaps left by iTunes

⌘⌘ 1/2

068 Nikon Coolpix S60

Small and stylish

⌘⌘⌘ 1/2

Sony DSC-T700

Fashion plate

⌘⌘⌘ 1/2

069 SimCity for iPhone

Proof that the iPhone can tackle Nintendo's DS

⌘⌘⌘ 1/2

070 ExpanDrive

Get a better grip on FTP servers

⌘⌘

071 SyncMate Basic

Simple sync tool for Windows Mobile devices

⌘⌘⌘ 1/2

072 Dropbox

Cheap and easy file storage in the cloud

⌘⌘⌘ 1/2



Next Byte introduces the new **iLife '09 and iWork '09**



**These latest upgrades will keep
your Mac looking good**

www.nextbyte.com.au/store

PayPal[®]



**Order your new copy from our Online Store today.
Visit us at www.nextbyte.com.au or call 1300 361 119**



*Terms and conditions apply. Please visit www.nextbyte.com.au for more details. Requires PayPal membership, please visit www.paypal.com for registration details.



Chris Oaten maintains an unshakable faith in Apple's genius. No matter what anyone says. Even himself.

Control-shift-Apple

There's a none too surprising phenomenon of the digital age — and a well-chronicled one at that — in which gadget enthusiasts find themselves suffering the same compulsions as do slaves to other addictions. I was reminded of this condition when gauging the reaction to Phil Schiller's *Macworld* keynote in January.

In the absence of what was widely considered an ideal time to release exciting new products, there was a reaction to the absence of such announcements that was not unlike front bar patrons being advised of a sudden shortfall of beer.

Also, I'm beginning to wonder if researchers need to consider that an adjunct to this gadget obsession could be an addiction, mild or otherwise, to Apple CEO Steve Jobs, because in his absence from the podium, it seemed difficult for attendees and observers to bring focus to what was actually announced. Thing is, the keynote did bring forth some great products, albeit not many, and once the dust settled the real stars of the keynote revealed themselves. Look to our cover story this month on iLife '09 and iWork '09 for a closer look at the killer features.

When news broke more recently that Jobs would take an extended leave of absence in light of unexpected health complications, not to return to the helm before June, I wondered even further about Apple's future and that of its user base.

The reaction to the news of Jobs' hiatus was astonishing, though not by now surprising. I even took a call from Melbourne's *Herald-Sun* newspaper seeking my opinion on what Jobs'

announcement would mean to Apple, at which point even more questions sprang to mind, among them: "Are Apple and its products now so firmly entrenched in the public space that mainstream news media as far from Cupertino as Melbourne feel compelled to cover it?"

Well yes, actually. It does appear that way. Apple and its products are more relevant than ever before, which makes this a great time to be a Mac user and to be proud to be so for many reasons.

Yet in the wake of a new focus on who's manning the control levers at Apple — though we should not forget Apple's COO Tim Cook has been instrumental in running the show for some time — the winds of change have set me to wondering just who today's Mac users are.

If *Australian Macworld's* readers are anything like me, they would have more than one Mac in their home. They can tell you, with some pride, about their first Mac and what it was like running it with only 4MB (or less) RAM. They probably will take any available opportunity to crusade for their preferred platform. They have likely earned an uneasy reputation as "zealots" or "fanboys" or have dodged other sticks and stones.

Yet I know from my own observations coupled with year-on-year sales growth records from Apple that there must be a lot of new Mac users out there who didn't buy a Mac because of Apple's unique corporate history or its "think different" campaign or its CEO's so-called "reality distortion field". They bought a Mac simply because they wanted a computer that works.

These may be people who bought an iPod or iPhone and loved it so much they decided their next computer would carry the Apple logo, or perhaps they are among the new wave of enterprise buyers who appreciate the dual-platform advantage that a Mac can so easily and readily provide.

Perhaps they've seen their Mac-using friends actually get stuff done instead of fighting with their computer and decided they want some of that kind of action for themselves.

Which is why we here at *Macworld* have decided it's time to get a clear snapshot of who our readers are in order that we can better serve their interests. I urge all readers — veteran users and newcomers alike — to visit the hotlink address on this page to complete an online survey to help the *Macworld* team of writers and reviewers to better respond to their needs.

We've sourced some great incentives for readers to take the trouble, among them a rare jewel for the old-school gadgeteer — an Apple Newton MessagePad H1000. In working order, with a slip cover. A little slice of Apple history, all the way from 1993.

For further details on the prizes on offer, turn to page 74.

Hotlinks

www.macworld.com.au/readersurvey





Buy a qualifying Mac and iPod between 22 January 2009 and 13 April 2009, and get a mail-in rebate of \$179. You can also save every day with your education discount. To learn more, visit us instore or at www.compnow.com.au/student.

**comp
now**
compnow.com.au

UTS On-campus NEW	02 9951 7940
UNSW On-campus	02 9385 2377
Monash On-campus	03 9684 3655
RMIT On-campus	03 9654 8111



WIN an Apple MacBook!

Enter at any CompNow On-campus store
Competition closes 13th April 2009.

*Buy a qualifying Mac and iPod with your Apple education discount between 22 January 2009 and 13 April 2009, and be eligible for a rebate of \$179. The iPod shuffle, iPod classic, Mac mini, Apple TV, iPhone and refurbished products are not eligible. Terms and Conditions apply. Visit www.compnow.com.au/student for full details.



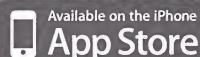
**Authorised
Campus Reseller**

Multi - room music has a new ring to it.



Control the award-winning Sonos Multi-Room Music System from your iPhone.

Walk into your house, reach into your pocket and play music in every room. That's the joy of combining the wireless Sonos® Multi-Room Music System with the free Sonos Controller for iPhone™ app. Just pick a room, point and flick to pick a song, and hit play. Play the same song in every room or different songs in every room. And with Sonos the music choices are endless — songs in your iTunes® library, plus 15,000 Internet radio stations, Last.fm, and more.



See a demo of the new Sonos Controller for iPhone
at www.playback.com.au/iphone or call directly
(03) 9885 5888 to learn more.



All the music you want. All over your house.



Each month Conexus is giving a prize to the Australian Macworld reader who submits what we deem to be the most interesting letter. This month, the prize is a Mophie Juice Pack extended battery for iPhone, valued at \$189.95. This is the first Apple-certified "Works With iPhone 3G" attached battery in the world. The Juice Pack is a rechargeable lithium polymer battery in the form of a non-slip, soft grip case. The new Mophie Juice Pack 3G is designed to more than double the time you can use your iPhone 3G. It increases standby time by up to 350 hours, talk time by up to six hours on 3G and up to 12 hours on 2G, and improves internet time by up to six hours on 3G and up to seven hours on Wi-Fi. Playback of audio and video is extended by up to 28 hours and eight hours, respectively.

Letters should be e-mailed to amweditor@niche.com.au with a subject header of "Command – V" or by post to *Australian Macworld* Mailbox, 170 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205. Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference. Comments posted to the forums on www.macworld.com.au are also eligible for the prize. We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will. To be eligible for the prize, you must include your full name and address, including state or territory.

Mophie Juice Pack by Conexus letter of the month

Tell us about your first Mac

Steve Jobs unveiled the first Macintosh 25 years ago. I have no idea what our first Mac was. I can't remember enough about it to actually identify it. I do remember that it had a small, external colour screen, it didn't have a CD drive, but we did have an external third-party drive that was unreliable.

We also had a huge colour printer and we still have the paper that printer used. Each sheet of paper was joined together with a perforated edge and there was a perforated section on either side of the paper that had holes in it to feed the paper into the printer.

The Mac probably ran an early version of System 7 and we bought it secondhand in either 1995 or 1996. I remember my dad went out one night and in the morning there was a computer on our lounge room floor. I had never seen a Macintosh before but I was familiar with the generic PCs of the day, we had about 30 of them at my school running Windows 3.1. I remember the first thing I did with our new Mac was to press the start-up key thinking it was the delete key.

For the first few months we didn't do much with it. I remember we used to print screenshots of the Finder. Later we got some games for it. There was one where you had to drop a guy out of a helicopter on to a moving hay cart, for which you got more points the higher up you dropped him. Another game was a

hot air balloon game. You had to pilot a balloon though the countryside dodging obstacles. Unfortunately, that game tended to crash on start-up, I only ever played it five times.

We also had Kid Pix. We would print out every single picture we made with it. We also had Pacman and a few others that I can barely remember. Unfortunately, I liked to hide things and one day I thought it was a good idea to hide the games folder in the Trash. Then the Trash was emptied and we lost all of our games. I still regret doing that. Our first Mac was replaced about a year later with a Power Macintosh 6500 with an Avid video card. My dad wanted to edit movies on it. He did a number of home movies and exported them to VHS. We had SimCity 2000, Spaceway 2000, Glider Pro, Lemmings and a whole heap of other games. Me, my brother and my sister mostly used it for playing games.

Clinton1550
via AMW Forums

It's an enduring charm of the Mac community that so many can remember their first love, er... Mac. This thread has already captured lots of fascinating replies. Why not head down memory lane and add your first Mac story at www.macworld.com.au/forums/index.php?showtopic=3766 My first Mac? A Powerbook 100. Loved it do death. — CO.

Are you being servered?

I have a query regarding the AUSMAC web site (in particular the Off The Net page that was linked to it). Having being a subscriber to *Macworld* magazine for many years now, I have noticed that the Off The Net section within the magazine no longer has the AUSMAC web address. The last time I recall seeing it was in the 2008 July issue of *Macworld*. I mention this because I like to download and trial only some of the applications suggested by the author. I really do not want to purchase a CD with all the software on it from a local MUG. I am

not interested in all the software that the author suggests. Often, once I have downloaded and tested particular software, I generally just trash it if it doesn't serve my purpose.

I have googled "Off The Net" and "AUSMAC" hoping that one of the mirrors might have the page still active, but to no avail. I recall no mention (in any of the issues last year) that the "AUSMAC" site will no longer be available. What has happened to the "AUSMAC" site and the "Off The Net" page linked to it?

Joe Yamen
via e-mail

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Mentor letter of the month 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry 2. To enter send tips or queries to matthew.powell@niche.com.au with a subject header of "Command – V". Entries will be judged by the editorial staff of *Australian Macworld*. The judges' decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on every person who enters. No correspondence will be entered into. Chance plays no part in determining the winner(s). Each entry will be individually judged based on its degree of interest. 4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdirected entries. 6. The best entry/entries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize occurring between the publish date and the date the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by mail. 10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information provided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 170 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529).

To be honest, Joe, I have absolutely no idea. But I'll look into it. In the meantime, how about a show of hands on who else would like to see the return of AUSMAC? If you found it useful, e-mail AMW with AUSMAC in the subject line. — CO.

Podcasting. What's going on?

Could we get some advice from administration as to the future of the AMW podcasts, and some detail as to when we can expect a resumption?

gramsey, et al
via AMW Forums

I understand there is interest in the AMW podcast and can advise you that re-establishing its production is under consideration. You'll know our decision on this almost as soon as we do. — CO.

TV on the blink

EyeTV from Elgato is a nice little thing. When it works. Recording is like lotto. Sometimes it is done, sometimes it isn't. When it isn't, 40 bytes are written into the movie file, then a Cancel Events message is written in the Console log, then it quits. From then on I can't even play TV because the "Device could not be initialized" until after a reboot. One does not buy EyeTV to play TV, but to record and edit. What is the value of such a device if it is a lottery to record? Worse still, I gave all the details to Elgato and they came up with a very long list of actions for me to do. What happened to programmers putting error messages in their programs? When you were not flying totally blind? When the flying was done by those who wrote

the program, not by customers forced to waste their time?

Is this an acceptable business practice? If not, what can be done so that programmers would pay more attention to troubleshooting than to the thickness and colour of this bar or that bar?

Dr Miklos Somogyi
via e-mail

I feel your pain. When you get a device that doesn't work as expected it is very disappointing. I've found the only problem with my Elgato set-up has been due to the inaccuracy of the IceTV Guide. You didn't, however, mention the outcome of the troubleshooting advice that Elgato sent you. It appears to me the company took reasonable steps to help you with your problem. Also, most of the error messages I've seen weren't much help. I'm quite pleased when programmers choose not to trigger an unintelligible error code when something goes wrong. — CO.

CORRECTION:

In the January issue of *Australian Macworld*, reference was made to two D-Link products, the DGS-2205 and DGS-2008. The story mistakenly indicated these models were available in Australia. D-Link has advised *Macworld* that this is not the case. Apologies are offered to D-Link and our readers for any inconvenience suffered as a result of this story. D-Link has advised the two most closely matched products that are available in Australia are the DGS-1005D (to match the DGS-2205) and the DGS-1008D. Visit www.dlink.com.au for further details.

Hotlinks

www.elgato.com
Check out Elgato's range
www.dlink.com.au
Look up a router right for you

COMING TO AUSTRALIAN MACWORLD

Modbook. Axiotron's little Mac tablet wonder gets a going over by *Macworld*. Could this be your next portable Mac?

Reviews. Canon's 5D Mark II, now famous for its exceptional low-light video capabilities, and Nikon's D3X go under the spotlight.

Network Storage. Yes, your Apple TV is a NAS device, but there are plenty of other options for storing your media files. *Macworld* looks at the options.

To advertise. Call Liana Pappas
03 9948 4974.

To subscribe. Free-call 1800 804 160.

COMING TO DESKTOP

Don't do me wrong. In April *Desktop* looks at copyright issues in design and how to combat unlawful use of your IP.

Back to the future. *Desktop* looks at what we can expect from your hardware in the not too distant future.

Hear ye, hear ye. *Desktop* takes a look at who's talking to you at the annual agldeas international design conference.

To advertise. Call Chantelle Ford
03 9948 4984.

To subscribe. Free-call 1800 804 160.

Macworld

March 2009 / Issue No. 133

Publisher

Niche Media

Associate Publisher

Nick Harris
nick.harris@niche.com.au
03 9948 4976

Editor

Chris Oaten
chris.oaten@niche.com.au

Business Development Manager

Liana Pappas
liana.pappas@niche.com.au
03 9948 4974

Designer

Hannah Ogilvie
hannah.ogilvie@niche.com.au

Production Coordinator

Samantha Gopal
sam.gopal@niche.com.au

Prepress

Emma Meagher
emma.meagher@niche.com.au

IT Manager

Joel Robertson
joel.robertson@niche.com.au



Australian Macworld

is a publication of Niche Media Pty Ltd
ABN 13 064 613 529
170 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne, Victoria 3205
Tel: 03 9948 4900 / Fax: 03 9948 4999

Chairman and Publisher
Nicholas Dower

Managing Director
Paul Lidgenwood

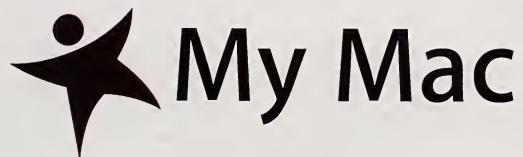
Financial Controller
Sonia Jurista

Studio Design Manager
Keely Atkins
keely.atkins@niche.com.au

Subscription Inquiries
Free Call: 1800 804 160
subscriptions@niche.com.au

CTP/Print
Bluestar print - Australia
03 8514 6000
ISSN 1329-9484

Digital Library Images supplied by PhotoDisc (www.photodisc.com)
Australian Macworld has reprint rights to Macworld, a Mac Publishing LLC title. Material appearing in Australian Macworld is copyright and reproduction in whole or in part without express permission from the publishers will result in litigation. Australian Macworld is published under licence from Mac Publishing LLC, San Francisco, California. Editorial items appearing in Australian Macworld that were originally published in the US edition of Macworld are the copyright property of Mac Publishing LLC, which reserves all rights. Copyright ©2004 Mac Publishing LLC. Macworld is a trademark of Mac Publishing LLC. Products presented in Gadget Central are included for information purposes only and carry no endorsement from Australian Macworld's editorial team. This issue of Australian Macworld may contain offers, competitions, surveys, subscription offers and premiums that, if you choose to participate, require you to provide information about yourself. If you provide information to provide you with the products or services you have requested (such as subscriptions). We may also provide this information to contractors who provide the products and services on our behalf (such as mail houses and suppliers of subscriber premiums and promotional prizes). We do not sell your information to third parties under any circumstances, however the suppliers of some of these products and services may retain the information we provide for future activities of their own, including direct marketing. NICHE MEDIA will also retain your information and use it to inform you of other NICHE MEDIA promotions and publications from time to time. If you would like to know what information NICHE MEDIA holds about you please contact:
The Privacy Officer, NICHE MEDIA PTY LTD, 170 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205.



My Mac Sydney

20 Bronte Rd, Bondi Junction
Sydney, NSW, 2026
T. (02) 8383 1600
F. (02) 9386 9381
www.mymac.com.au

My Mac Melbourne

172 - 192 Flinders St
Melbourne, VIC, 3000
T. (03) 9662 9666
F. (03) 9662 9855
www.mymac.com.au



MacBook

2.0GHz - \$ 2,099.00
2.4GHz - \$ 2,549.00



Mac Pro

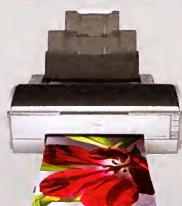
From \$3,999.00



MacBook Pro

15-inch: 2.4GHz - \$ 3,199.00
15-inch: 2.53GHz - \$ 3,999.00

Featured Products



STYLUS PHOTO R2400 A3+
\$1,705.00



STYLUS PHOTO R390 A4
\$319.00



Apple iWork '09
from \$129.00



Apple iLife '09
\$129.00



STYLUS PHOTO R1410 A3+
\$699.00



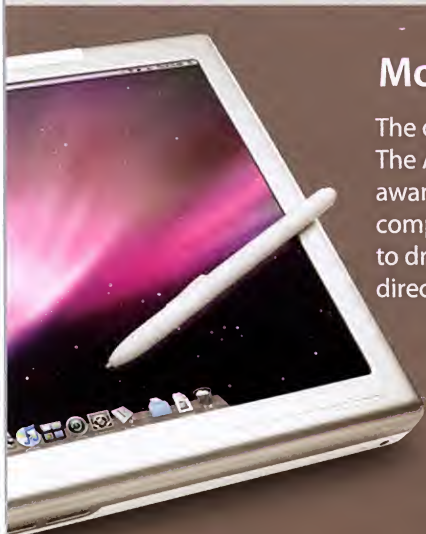
STYLUS PHOTO R800 A4
\$599.00



ADOBE CS4
Call us for best price



MICROSOFT OFFICE
from \$229.00



Modbook

The one and only Mac Tablet. The Axiotron Modbook is the award-winning tablet Mac computer that enables users to draw, sketch and write directly on the screen.

\$3,949.00 inc tax



iPhone 3G

My Mac has partnered with Optus to provide you with the best iPhone consumer and business plans.

Come and talk to our specialists to tailor an iPhone plan to best meet your requirements.





What are you waiting for?

www.macworld.com.au





Apple posts record quarter, Cook calls the play

If there were many doubts that Apple or its leadership was foundering in the forced absence of its charismatic CEO, they were at least partly put to rest when Apple's top-level brass, among them its chief operating officer Tim Cook, addressed media attending the company's quarterly financial results conference call on 21 January.

The results for the US quarter ending December provided an antidote to the sour reaction that technology and finance media had given to Apple's keynote address at Macworld Expo in San Francisco. The results were stunning, especially coming at time when the IT sector, indeed most industry sectors, were feeling the pinch from a world economy in the doldrums.

Apple recorded its 14th consecutive quarterly period of growth, announcing a record revenue of US\$10.17 billion and record net quarterly profit of US\$1.61 billion, or \$1.78 per diluted share. This compared to a revenue during the year-ago quarter of US\$9.6 billion.

Apple's gross margin was 34.7 per cent, equal to the year-ago quarter. Impressively, almost half of Apple's sales occurred in the international market – by which, of course, Apple means everywhere other than the United States.

Surprisingly, Apple managed to sell 22,727,000 iPods. This was a sales achievement that seemed a little out of place given that its iPhone 3G had stolen so much thunder in 2008 – though, as it turned out, the iPhone did very well, too, selling 4,363,000 units in the Christmas end of 2008. This amounted to an attention-grabbing 88 per cent unit growth over the year-ago quarter.

The iPhone 3G sales should be seen in context. Yes, the year-on-year sales growth was impressive but it

should be remembered that the second half of 2008 brought the iPhone 3G to an international market of more than 70 countries.

There were sales of Macintosh computers as well – 2,524,000 of them, representing a nine per cent unit growth over the previous year's quarter. Sales of notebooks were marginally better than desktops. This is not too surprising, with users the world over turning strongly towards notebooks and other portable computing solutions in a trend that has been continuing for some time.

But among the proudest boasts was the one Steve Jobs offered.

"Even in these economically challenging times, we are incredibly pleased to report our best quarterly revenue and earnings in Apple history – surpassing \$10 billion in quarterly revenue for the first time ever," said Jobs.

Could this have been a sweetly satisfying moment for Jobs? Certainly so, and perhaps even sweeter the next day, when Microsoft, the company Apple has so long been pitted against, announced it would pursue some cost management measures extending to the elimination of 5000 jobs among many departments including marketing, sales and finance over the next 18 months to come, including 1400 jobs on the day of the announcement.

Microsoft's profit for the second-quarter fell 11 per cent from a year ago to \$US4.2 billion (\$A6.3 billion) even as revenue grew by 2 per cent to \$US16.6 billion.

Also among the Microsoft clan to lose their jobs would be those in the research and development arm. This was an aspect of Microsoft's decision-making that contrasts sharply with Apple's management style and which may prove a telling one in the future.

[APPLE NEWS]

Jobs told media last year that the company would continue to pursue its R&D efforts so that it would come out in front of its competitors with innovative products when the conservatism enforced by a slow economy comes to pass. This should not be taken to mean Apple will wait until such a time before releasing new product.

But going past the quarterly results there came answers to questions about Apple's future that were at least as important as the company's financials, possibly more so if confidence in the company's management holds any currency in the marketplace.

Analyst Ben Reitzes of Barclays Capital asked about Jobs' health and how it affected the operation and management of the organisation. Specifically, Reitzes wanted to know if chief operating officer Tim Cook would be Jobs' likely successor "if the worst case scenario" should occur and Jobs became unable to return to active participation in the management of Apple.

"Steve is the CEO of Apple, and plans to remain involved in major strategic decisions, and Tim will be responsible for our day-to-day operations," replied chief financial officer Peter Oppenheimer.

Then Cook chimed in, with a reassuring show of leadership. "There is an extraordinary breadth and depth and tenure among the Apple executive team. And these executives lead over 35,000 employees that I would call all 'wicked smart'," said Cook.

"And that's in all areas of the company, from engineering, to marketing, to operations, sales, and all the rest."

Cook told media that Apple's focus is on innovation, and that Apple is "on the face of the Earth to make great products, and that's not changing".

He explained that Apple believes in simplicity, in owning and controlling primary technologies behind its products, and to participate in markets where it can make a difference.

"And frankly," he added, "we don't settle for anything less than excellence in every group in the company, and we have the self-honesty to admit where we're wrong, and the courage to change. And I think regardless of who is in what job, those values are so embedded in this company that Apple will do extremely well. And... I strongly believe that Apple is doing the best work in its history," said Cook.

It was just the show of strength that Apple's fans needed to hear from the company at a time when its future seemed shaky following Jobs' announcement of an illness-induced hiatus that would last until June.

It also seemed to be what the market wanted to hear. Apple shares had steadily been declining after the Macworld Expo to reach a low of US\$78.20 on 20 January. Following the quarterly call, with its positive financials and equally positive chief operating officer, the slide was arrested and set on an upward trend. — *Chris Oaten*

Apple COO Tim Cook

As Apple's chief operating officer since 2005, Timothy D Cook has overseen every aspect of Apple's supply chains, sales, and support services as well as the company's Mac division. And now he'll handle the day-to-day operations of Apple as well — at least until June while CEO Steve Jobs takes a leave of absence from the company.

After Jobs announced in January that he would take a medical leave from his post to deal with lingering health issues, Cook was thrust into the interim CEO post.

"I know he and the rest of the executive management team will do a great job," Jobs told employees.

While Cook has maintained a low profile since becoming Apple's COO nearly four years ago, he has a strong reputation in the business press for keeping the company running smoothly outside of the limelight.

A 2006 *Wall Street Journal* profile called him a "low-key operator" who helped fix the manufacturing inefficiencies that dogged Apple in the mid- to late '90s. Cook, 48, also has a reputation for being detail-oriented.

He's also familiar with stepping in for Jobs. When the Apple CEO was treated for pancreatic cancer in 2004, it was Cook who took over the day-to-day operations.

Cook participates in Apple's quarterly conference calls with analysts, along with chief financial officer Peter Oppenheimer. He also sits on the board of directors for Nike — the only executive at Apple other than Steve Jobs to sit on another company's board.

Cook joined Apple in 1998, hired by Jobs to tackle Apple's operations. According to Apple's official company biography for Cook, he previously worked for Compaq, IBM, and Intelligent Electronics. Cook has an M.B.A. from North Carolina's Duke University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Auburn University.



Mac users warm to virus tool

It used to be the case that Mac users could blithely ignore the perils of network-borne nasties and get away with it. Those carefree days, sadly, seem to be under threat.

As one example of virus threats for Mac users being a growth industry, a pirated copy of iWork '09 doing the rounds of the download underworld was found to be carrying a Trojan horse virus.

The virus, once it infected a system, would connect to remote servers over the Internet, thereby alerting a malicious user, who could then connect to the infected Mac and perform unauthorised actions. It sounds like a horror story so often heard from the Windows camp. Ironically, it's Windows users switching to the Mac who are helping to grow sales in anti-virus software.

According to a spokesperson for PC Tools, which makes iAntivirus software for Mac, the well-entrenched habit among Windows users of installing and maintaining anti-virus software has spilled over to the Mac community – if only because of the numbers of “switchers” taking to Apple's computing platform.

“While the Mac has a solid reputation for remaining relatively threat-free, the Mac community has been very receptive to the launch of iAntiVirus with more than 250,000 downloads from the iAntiVirus website,” said Simon Clausen, vice president, PC Tools.

He said that iAntiVirus is the number one anti-virus download for Mac OS on Download.com and pointed out it was a “top download” on the Apple website.

“We are confident that the Mac community has been responsive because iAntiVirus is a dedicated Mac-only solution that does not contain unnecessary information about Windows-based threats, keeping the memory footprint and system impact to an absolute minimum.”

Security experts advise that while one anti-virus tool is a good start to protecting a computer from malware such as a virus, a second layer of anti-virus protection considerably reduces risk to the user.

PC Tools claims iAntiVirus detects and removes viruses, spyware, keyloggers, Trojans and, in particular, socially engineered threats. Look for a review in next month's edition of *Macworld*. — Chris Oaten

Weather just fine for Chumby

A clever widget that provides touchscreen access to Australian weather forecasts has won a competition run by ISP Internode to find local software for the streaming media device.

The program streams a satellite image from the Bureau of Meteorology. It provides access to weather data including rainfall, current temperatures in capital cities and forecast information for each city. Australian developer thinkquick created the widget.

What's that? Not heard of a Chumby? Internode launched the Chumby in Australia in November. It's a small, network-reliant device, sized to fit easily on a shelf or bedside table, which runs information and entertainment widgets.

If you haven't spotted a Chumby, imagine running OS X's Dashboard widgets on a 320x240 pixel touchscreen device. The Flash-based widgets the Chumby runs are loaded sequentially when the Chumby is powered on, with on-screen duration of each widget determined by the user. It can also stream Internet radio, a selling point for Internode, whose customers can stream unmetered music from its servers; providing, of course, that they are Internode customers.



Problem was, when the Chumby was launched there were almost no widgets featuring localised information for the Australian market, which cooled the device's reception a bit, with reviewers questioning the value of such a device if it couldn't display localised data. To redress this, Internode ran a competition to draw developers out of the woodwork.

In a special competition category, Internode managing director Simon Hackett picked the Scenic Route game, from developer freman, as the most creative Australian-themed entry. In all, the competition led to the creation of 18 Australian widgets for the Chumby.

As its prize, thinkquick received a Chumby, a copy of Adobe Flash CS4 Professional and an \$800 credit towards Internode services.

The Chumby is priced at \$299 and is available exclusively through Internode. — Chris Oaten

Hotlinks

<http://www.ableton.com>

Live 8

<http://www.rolandcorp.com.au>

AX-Synth, LX-10 Digital Upright Piano and LR-1 Digital Accordion

<http://www.motu.com>

BPM virtual instrument

<http://www.infiniteresponse.com/>

VAX77 foldable keyboard

<http://www.arturia.com>

Brass 2.0 and Minimoog V 2.0

<http://www.spectrasonics.net>

Trillian

Marching to a new beat

While *Macworld* tends to steal the limelight, there were other significant goings-on early in the year – among them NAMM, the annual conference of the National Association of Music Merchants.

Held in Anaheim, California, this year's event attracted more than 1800 exhibitors from Abbey Road Studios to Zinky Electronics. Here's a selection of new gear that should get musos checking their bank balance.

Ableton. Ableton announced its latest update to Live, Live 8. For any digital audio workstation that's been around a few years, new versions are less revolutionary than the NAMM press release claims. In the case of Live 8, its relative youth means that Ableton has managed to list a decent set of enhancements. Five new effects including a vocoder are on offer, plus a new groove engine, more live looping options and big improvements in MIDI editing and an online collaboration facility are some of the standouts. Live 8 is scheduled for release second quarter of this year, with no Australian pricing confirmed at this stage. Ableton gives a ballpark of US\$450 for the down-

load version, so keep your eye on the *AMW* website as more details are confirmed – we'll also review Live 8 in full once we lay our hands on a copy.

Roland. Roland had a big showing at NAMM, particularly in regards to keyboards. Roland has always been the dominant manufacturer of remote synths – the ones that look a little like guitars in that they're strapped over the shoulders and play standing. Roland has revamped its offering with the AX-Synth. Un-

like its predecessors, this unit has its own sound source while maintaining the traditional option of controlling sounds on other devices via MIDI. At US\$2299 this is really only a purchase likely to be considered by the gigging musician, though I'm half-tempted to buy one in order to mime to Howard Jones songs in my lounge room.

Grand idea. On the other end of the spectrum is the LX-10 Digital Upright Grand Piano. This unit is aimed squarely at the home and education markets. It has six speakers, a lid that affects sound output like a standard piano, a USB port to import Standard Midi Files or WAV files. At \$8999 it's competitive with standard upright pianos and offers some wider creative options while maintaining the form factor and keyboard response needed in a learning environment. Aesthetically, the LX-10 is very similar to its analogue counterpart except for a markedly reduced footprint depth-wise.

The other standout from Roland is the FR-1 digital accordion. On the face of it, the FR-1 looks pretty much like a standard accordion. The six inlay inserts allow you to get as traditional or modern as you like – there's even the option of printing your own inlay. Beyond its looks, the FR-1 has a range of sound options. There are seven accordion variants, four organs with rotary effect and drum sounds assignable to the bass and chord buttons if you want a one-man band option. The FR-1 runs on batteries, with five hours operating time claimed. There's a standard audio output, MIDI in and out, a DC in as well as a headphone jack for solo practice. \$2999 will buy you one – not cheap but for the accordion aficionado wanting to go digital, its abilities will appeal.

Contact Roland Corp Australia on 02 9982 8266 for more details on all three products. The AX-Synth and FR-1 accordion won't hit Australian shores until April at the earliest, but the LX-10 piano is available now.

MOTU. MOTU has expanded its software range with the launch of the BPM (Beat Production Machine) virtual instrument. It's a fairly well-trodden path: a software-based drum machine with accompanying sample and



loop library and some programming options for custom beat creation. The real value in BPM comes in the size of its sample library (15GB) and its drag-and-drop beat creation options

I particularly like the fact it imports REX files, a well-established and growing standard for loops. Apple Loops, WAV and AIFF are also fully supported. As a plug-in it supports all standard formats so it'll happily run on your Digital Audio Workstation of choice.

Sequencing-wise, there's the expected step sequencer as well as a Graph Sequencer for automating the velocity, timing and pitch, and other aspects of individual notes. Operation from an external MIDI keyboard or drum pad controller is supported and a bunch of groove presets are supplied, including classics such as the Linn Drum (Prince or Thompson Twins, anyone?).

If you're a home musician looking for a comprehensive virtual drum instrument that'll work with your application of choice, BPM is well worth adding to your options list. The large loop and sample library will also appeal to those looking to graduate from Apple's Jam Packs and GarageBand. BPM is available now and costs \$649. Contact Major Music on 1300 306 670.

One short finale. have a look at the VAX77 foldable keyboard (see Hotlinks) – an initial report from a trusted NAMM attendee is that this is one sturdy unit. At time of writing no Australian pricing or distributor had been confirmed.

Soft Synth Heaven. The growth in the soft synth market continues unabated with a significant range of upgrades and new options launched at NAMM.

Arturia is a veteran in the field and they've announced upgrades to their Brass and Minimoog V products to Version 2. Brass is, not surprisingly, a collection of physically-modelled brass sounds.

The latest version provides greater MIDI control from external devices, template riffs to apply the brass sounds to, better harmonisation options along with the addition of a modelled saxophone to the trumpet and trombone featured in the previous version.



On the opposite end of the sonic spectrum, thesecond Minimoog V iteration provides some newfeatures as well. The Sound Map allows for visualcustomisation of each sound, the Vocal Filter gives the application the ability to "talk", along with all the inherent creative possibilities that entails. There's also been a fundamental re-wiring of the Minimoog V. There are now improved routing options between oscillators and on-board effects.

No Australian pricing for either product was finalised at time of writing. The original versions of Brass and Minimoog V retailed for \$550 and \$400 respectively, so expect something in that ballpark with some upgrade pricing as well. CMI is Arturia's distributor in Australia: (03) 9315 2244.

Pump up the bass. Spectrasonics is another well known player in the market and has released a new virtual instrument named Trilian as a follow-up to its previous bass module, Trilogy.

The cited improvements on Trilian's predecessor include a much larger sample library containing a mix of acoustic and synth/electric basses (all the Trilogy patches are included), multi-sampled dynamic slides for more realistic bass lines, a proprietary appregiator to improve sync with MIDI files and a Custom Controls page to access the most useful controls more easily.

Trilian's interface follows the growing trend of simple visuals in addition to the more complex stuff under the hood. Every patch has an associated image and these images are a key search option within Trillian's interface. It may sound like window-dressing but for some this is a true productivity enhancement.

Trilian has heavy integration with Spectrasonics' other products but it's also a standalone RTAS/VST/AudioUnit plug-in. The expected price on release in May will be about \$470, with an upgrade price of about \$150 for Trilogy users plus free upgrades for Intel Mac Trilogy customers. Sonic Virtual Media is the Australian distributor: (02) 9439 6839. — David Holloway

Vale, iMovie 6


Back in 2007, Apple announced iMovie '08 would be totally new from the ground up, due to the amazing work of one of the company's engineers, who we now know was Apple's chief architect of video applications, Randy Ubillos.

Readers might remember CEO Steve Jobs selling iMovie '08 by explaining how one of Apple's engineers had thought of a much better way of doing things.

Not everybody was thrilled, though: many users found themselves annoyed at all the features iMovie '08 lacked compared to its predecessor, iMovie HD (or version 6), a much-loved app that defined, even from its earlier incarnations, how easy and enjoyable video editing at the consumer level could and should be.

In an uncharacteristic gesture to soothe the savaging from disgruntled users, Apple decided to provide a free download of iMovie HD to all registered users of iLife '08. However, last month Apple decided to send the download page for iMovie HD to the great URL in the sky.

The reason isn't difficult to see, with the '09 version supposedly bringing the re-engineered iMovie up to par with the old one in terms of features while bringing some new tricks to the editing table.

Yet Mac users who loved version 6 aren't prepared to let it die. Already, many fans are keeping it alive with the installer file stored on share folders readily accessible by anyone with a link to them. 

Hotlinks

www.macworld.com.au/events

MUG activities: March

Mon 2

Southern Highlands Computer Users' Group

www.shcug.org.au

Gold Coast Macintosh User Group [QLD]

www.goldcoastmacusers.org.au

Tue 3

MacTalk - Newcastle & The Hunter Macintosh User Group [NSW]

www.mactalkhunter.org.au

Wed 4:

Toowoomba Apple & Mac UG [QLD]

www.taamug.org.au

Thu 6

Hervey Bay Mac User Group [QLD]

www.hbmug.com

TasMac [TAS]

groups.yahoo.com/group/tasmug/

Fri 6:

SA Apple Users Club [SA]

www.saauc.org.au

Sat 7

AUSOM Incorporated [VIC]

www.ausom.net.au

Sun 8

Gold Coast Apple Users Group [QLD]

go.in.to/gcusers

Mon 9

Southern Highlands Computer Users' Group

www.shcug.org.au

Macintosh Users Group Sunshine Coast [QLD]

www.mugsunco.org.au

Tue 10

Macintosh Multimedia Group [VIC]

www.ausom.net.au

ACT Apple Users Group [ACT]

www.actapple.org.au

Bellarine Mac User Group [VIC]

www.bellarinemac.org.au

North Queensland Macintosh Users Group [QLD]

www.nqmug.org

Wed 11

SA Apple Users Club [SA]

www.saauc.org.au

Retiree & Others [VIC]

www.ausom.net.au

BEAUT [VIC]

www.beaut.org.au

Coffs Harbour Mac User Group [NSW]

groups.yahoo.com/group/coffs_mac_users

Thu 12

ClubMac

www.clubmac.org.au

Sun 15 Apple-Q [QLD]

www.apple-q.org.au/pages/calendar.php

Mon 16

Southern Highlands Computer Users' Group

www.shcug.org.au

Byron Shire Macintosh Users Group [NSW]

www.ozshop.net/bsmug/

Tue 17

North Queensland Macintosh Users Group [QLD]

www.nqmug.org

Wed 18

Melbourne Cocoaheads

www.melbournecocoaheads.com

Sun 22

Apple-Q [QLD]

www.apple-q.org.au/pages/calendar.php

Mon 23

Southern Highlands Computer Users' Group

www.shcug.org.au

Tue 24

iMug [VIC]

www.imug.com.au

Thu 26

Central Victorian Macintosh Users Inc [VIC]

www.cvmu.net

Mon 30

Southern Highlands Computer Users' Group

www.shcug.org.au

List compiled by Nicholas Pyers

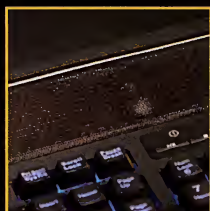


Tuneboard for Mac

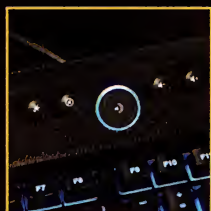
Music to your ears
at your fingertips



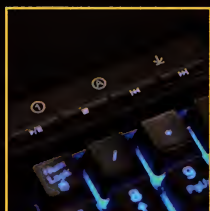
Speakers



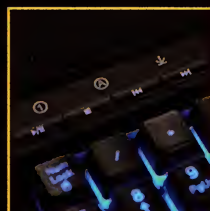
Sound Control



Music Control



Illumination



Whether you use your computer to watch videos on YouTube™ or listen to your music, the Verbatim Speaker Keyboard for Mac is a great choice. With integrated dual speakers, this keyboard gives you stereo-quality sound at your fingertips - without cluttering up your space with speakers and cords. It also has easy keys to control volume and boost bass and a media console designed for iTunes®.

For an extra cool experience, this keyboard offers backlight illumination you can turn on or off - depending on your surroundings or your mood.

With integrated speakers and backlighting, this Verbatim keyboard lets you turn down the lights, turn up the volume and enjoy the ultimate music experience.

Ben Goldhammer — weaver of web wonders



As much as Apple would have you believe otherwise, most fancy websites you see don't get built in iWeb. We asked Ben Goldhammer from Gee Multimedia about designing web pages, industry trends, and what he sees for the future of the web.

What does Gee Multimedia do? What's your role?

We are an online marketing, design and development company. My role is project management, business development, a bit of everything really.

Who are your biggest clients?

We are fortunate to have a broad base of clients. We work very much behind the scenes when it comes to digital production and as a result I am not allowed to promote who our biggest clients are. Some that we work directly with include the Royal Show, Leggos, Birdseye, Ocean Spray, Safeway, St John Ambulance, OAMPS, Canon, Connell Wagner, and more.

What do businesses look for in a website?

In general, businesses look for measurable results and what these should be depend on the type of campaign involved. Among our clients, the majority of businesses seek sales and/or inquiries. Clients also wish to better engage with existing and potential customers by learning what their clients really want.

What, in your opinion, makes a great website?

In general I feel that thoughtful, intuitive architecture and great design play a huge role in yielding effective sessions that achieve desired results. A great site will be well-constructed, properly optimised in terms of SEO (search engine optimisation) and for browsers, persuasive in terms of its objectives, and fast to load.

How has the process of web design changed over the past 10 years? What tools have made it easier?

Online is serious business and doing it well requires at times some serious investment. But when well executed, the rewards can be extraordinary. Online there are tools

for everything, they always change and improve. Having them is one thing, being able to actually use them is another. Over the last 10 years online has evolved incredibly, there are more technologies, more competitors in every category, and new tools coming out all the time.

When you post video to websites, do you use Flash, Quicktime, or another technology?

Flash and YouTube.

Of the websites you design and monitor, what's the split between browsers?

Generally I see Internet Explorer in position one, then Firefox in two and Safari in three. I notice that positions two and three vary, depending on the target demographic. Across the board over the years I have noticed on most sites that IE is declining and Firefox is gaining ground.

Who do you use for web hosting?

Mostly we use our own dedicated servers supplied by Primus Telecom.

How much of your traffic is served to Macs?

It's hard to say exactly but if I had to guess I would put it at about 10 per cent.

Are you seeing much demand for mobile phone or iPhone-specific sites?

Not really, no. That's not to say it's not there, it just hasn't found us yet.

Of the sites you run, do any get substantial traffic from mobile Safari?

On some sites, yes. I wouldn't describe it as substantial yet, but definitely getting more noticeable.

What's the future of web design?

I wish I knew! In general, I think the web is in its infancy. In terms of web design, creativity and attention to detail will continue to be a commodity of rising value. The challenge is being presented with all this technology and actually being able to harness it, to stand out, to be justified in a sustainable way. I think online advertising will increase, in volume and cost, and that consumers will start to trust the web more and more.

Above all, I see the future of web design as involving great degrees of service and trust between businesses and web suppliers like us. Companies that tap into experienced, collaborative online teams will be more nimble and therefore more able to take advantage of emerging trends.

I see the web a lot like corporate networks — even when you have all the software and hardware, you still need a qualified person to get the most out of it. — Danny Gorog

Announcing New FileMaker Pro 10

Manage people, projects, assets and more—the easy way!



Sleek new look. Intuitive new design.



New FileMaker Pro 10

FileMaker Pro is the world's leading easy-to-use database application. Regardless if you're a Mac or Windows user – you can create and share information with each other through a network, over the web, or in popular formats such as PDF.



Get started quickly

With the award-winning ease of use built into every aspect of FileMaker Pro 10, installation and setup takes just a matter of minutes.



Reporting made easy

FileMaker Pro 10 comes complete with step-by-step reporting tools that help you (and your colleagues) make sense of all your data and automate those repetitive tasks.



Share in a couple of clicks

Safely share FileMaker Pro 10 databases with both Windows and Mac users. Plus control what data you let other people see - right down to a specific field.

Learn more, visit: www.filemaker.com.au/mac09/Products

© 2009 FileMaker, Inc. FileMaker and the file folder logo are trademarks of FileMaker, Inc., in the U.S. and other countries. Mac is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Windows is a trademark of the Microsoft Group of companies. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. The example companies, organization, products, domain names, email addresses, logos, people, places and events depicted are purely fictitious, and any resemblance to existing persons and companies is purely coincidental.



Hotlinks

homepage.mac.com/sydamug
 AMUG Sydney
www.ausom.net.au/discofthemonth
 AUSOM Incorporated
www.beaut.org.au/tips.html
 BEAUT
www.cvmu.net
 Central Victorian Macintosh Users Inc
www.gmug.org.au
 Geraldton Macintosh User Group
go.in.to/gcusers
 Gold Coast Apple Users Group
www.mactalkhunter.org.au
 MacTalk Hunter
www.saauc.org.au
 South Australian Apple Users Club

Personal Organisers

AMW's Software Selection is available on disc priced at \$10 from participating Mac user groups around the country (see "Hotlinks"). This month's selection comprises a collection of applications to get your information and life in order.

Agenda: Keeps track of your events and tasks, lets you enter your thoughts, and easily create calendar or journal websites. *Shareware*

Caboodle: A tool to help store and organise varied bits of information such as product serial numbers, photos, pretty much anything. *Shareware*

CheckOff: A to-do list that sits in your Mac's menu bar. *Donationware*

Circus Ponies NoteBook: Organize your information naturally, using a familiar notebook interface, complete with pages and tabs, sections and subsections. *Demo*

ConceptDraw Office: Comprehensive toolset aimed at helping knowledge workers in businesses of any size to streamline their daily work. *Demo*

Curio: Note taking, mind mapping, brainstorming, and project management. *Demo*

Daylite Suite: Organize your business with tools such as shared calendars, contacts and tasks. *Demo*

FlexTeam: Powerful, visually appealing schedule management tool. *Demo*

iClip: A supercharged clipboard storing a history of up to 99 things you've copied and pasted. *Demo*

iSticky: Full-featured memo assistant for sticking little notes on your own and other desktops. *Demo*

LifeShaker: Revolutionary To-Do Lists with a unique interface and novel approach to getting stuff done. *Demo*

MacBreakZ: Sophisticated personal ergonomic assistant promoting healthy and productive computer use. *Demo*

Scheduler for Macintosh: All-around scheduling application. *Freeware*

MindNode Pro: Elegant, easy-to-use mind-mapping application created with the user in mind. *Shareware*

OmniFocus: Professional-grade personal task management helps you focus on critical tasks. *Demo*

OmniOutliner: Draft to-do lists, create agendas, manage tasks, track expenses, take notes, plan events. *Demo*

Pastor: A tool to store passwords, website logins, serial numbers, in an encrypted and password-protected format – includes a password generator. *Shareware*

PersonalBrain: Mind-mapping application that enables you to link items associatively and provides information context through visual interface. *Freeware*

Process: Brainstorm. Organise. Schedule. Plan. Coordinate. Collaborate. *Commercial*

Prospects: Personal finance application that allows users to manage their finances via extensive account monitoring capabilities and budgeting. *Demo*

Savvy Clipboard: Holds a list of items that you copied, such as text fragments, graphics, URLs, or links to files, and lets you access them using this list. *Shareware*

SharedPlan Pro: Robust project planning and management application. *Demo*

ShoveBox: Catches bits of information that you can't act on now but would rather not forget. *Shareware*

Tags: Tag files and folders; emails in Mail; photos in iPhoto and bookmarks in Safari. Then search based on what you tagged them with. *Shareware*

Things: Task management has never been this easy. Simple but with powerful features. *Shareware*

Today: Track what's on your plate for any given day without keeping iCal open. *Shareware*

Together: Text, documents, images, movies, sounds, web pages and bookmarks can all be dragged to Together for safe keeping, tagged, previewed, gathered together in different ways and found again instantly. *Shareware*

Voila: A first-of-its kind Image Capturing and Annotating tool for the Mac. It allows you to capture anything or everything on your desktop, and in the way you decide! Shape your imagination by annotating and adding effects to the image. See special offer below. *Shareware*

Yep: Like iPhoto for your PDFs. It makes it so easy to keep all your PDF documents in one place, instantly retrievable and searchable. *Shareware*

AMW's Software Selection is compiled by Nicholas Pyers.

Until end of March, readers downloading Voila from www.globaldelight.com/store can enjoy a 25 per cent discount off the usual price of \$39.99 by entering the promo code MACWORLD AU.

Have you tried any of this software? Liked it? Feel the need to share? Offer your thoughts online in the reader forums at www.macworld.com.au



Kanto Speakers. Meet the new standard in sound revolution.



Kanto AV iPair \$599.95

Kanto AV Systems manufactures exceptional iPod speakers for consumers demanding a break from mediocrity. Kanto is committed to delivering products that combine superior performance, elegance, craftsmanship and value. The iPair 5 delivers all that and more in a powerful, hand crafted, feature-rich set of studio monitor inspired speakers.



Kanto AV iPort Syd 5 \$549.95

Kanto AV Systems manufactures and distributes exceptional iPod speakers for consumers demanding a break from mediocrity. Kanto is committed to delivering products that combine superior performance, elegance, craftsmanship and value. The SYD 5 delivers all that and more in a powerful, hand crafted, feature-rich speaker.



Kanto ZED \$399.95

Style and function combine in this hand-crafted wood cabinet iPod speaker. The powered speaker system features multiple audio inputs and a full-function remote control. The ZED delivers refined sound and a surprising punch that adds a sophisticated presence to any room. Another great Kanto product for discerning listeners demanding a break from mediocrity.



Kanto SYD 4 \$499.95

Kanto AV Systems manufactures exceptional iPod speakers for consumers demanding a break from mediocrity. Kanto is committed to delivering products that combine superior performance, elegance, craftsmanship and value. The SYD 4 delivers deep bass from an enclosed 4" x 6" subwoofer, while two audiophile quality 3" full range drivers provide unsurpassed clarity.

More info, visit www.kantospeakers.com

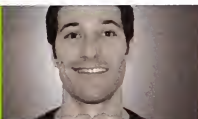
Kanto Distributor

Australian Exclusive Distributor
Monstamac Distribution
Reseller inquiries:
steve@monstamac.com.au
Web: www.monstamac.com.au

Kanto Reseller

My Mac Melbourne
172 - 192 Flinders St
Melbourne, VIC, 3000
T. (03) 9662 9666
F. (03) 9662 9855
www.mymac.com.au

My Mac Sydney
20 Bronte Rd, Bondi Junction
Sydney, NSW, 2026
T. (02) 8383 1600
F. (02) 9386 9381
www.mymac.com.au



Danny Gorog is wondering when Apple will expand its product line to include car stereos, white goods and TVs.

Video solutions

Thinking inside the Boxee

The eternal quest for geeks around the world to build a media centre that is free, has lots of great content, and is easy enough to use that their partners don't have to schedule tech help each time they want to watch TV has just gotten closer, thanks to a multi-platform entertainment hub and social networking application called Boxee.

Boxee is actually a fork of development from the popular XMBC open source media centre software that was originally conceived to turn the first Xbox into a media centre. Boxee developers have taken the code, added some of their own (including a smooth GUI) and churned out a product that might just take off.

Apart from the great GUI, Boxee is all about being "social", with users able to view, rate and recommend content to their friends.

Boxee is still in Alpha mode but if you're interested you can sign up for an account at Boxee.tv. It will run on OS X (Leopard and Tiger), Linux PCs with Intel processors, and a Windows version was released in January.

Interestingly, Boxee has also released a version designed for Apple TV, but getting it installed is more complex than running a version on your computer, something I suggest you do before hacking your Apple TV.

Boxee on the Book. I've spent some time playing with Boxee on my MacBook and I like it.

If you've ever played with Front Row (Apple's built-in media centre) you'll

be familiar with Boxee's capabilities. Essentially, Boxee is a media centre, but one that provides a greater level of flexibility, and an alarming level of file compatibility when compared to Front Row.

I threw AVIs, MKVs, MOVs and FLACs at Boxee, file formats that Apple TV and Front Row won't handle (except with a third-party utility such as Perian) and Boxee responded as you would hope, with no hiccups.

Boxee also comes bundled with media plugins that let you watch web video on your TV. All of them worked in my tests, but unfortunately, the more useful ones that let you watch primetime US TV shows (as is enabled by Hulu) are restricted based on your IP address, so legitimately watching this content in Australia is still a far-off dream.

Boxee also includes a built-in BitTorrent client. The standard build provides links to legal BitTorrent trackers, but according to the Boxee wiki, plug-ins are available that let you hook in to the many other BitTorrent sites on the Internet.

Least exciting in my book, but something that all the kids seem to be getting engaged by, are the social features included in Boxee. These include FriendFeed, Twitter and Tumblr integration and extends from these sites all the way through to Facebook where your activity as a Boxee user can be displayed in your feed or timeline. Word of warning: turn that feature off before you watch something you shouldn't.

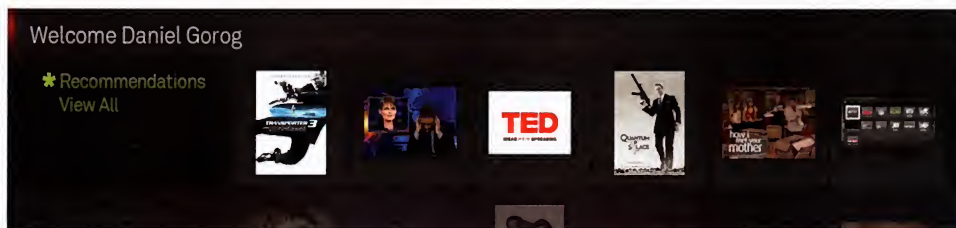
While I'm not a fan of social hooks, these features could get interesting as a way of discovering new media. And let's face it, lots of people love 'em.

The Boxee interface is intuitive, too. You drag your cursor to the left side of the screen to reveal the main menu bar, where you choose what you want to watch. Click on Video, for example, and another list of options appears where you'll choose from Movies, TV Shows and Internet. Clicking on a category then fills up the screen with options. One more click and you're watching. In play mode you've got the regular play/pause/rewind/fast-forward controls, but also options such as Rate and Recommend (for the social aspects).

Each different Internet plug-in has a different look and feel. Joost, for example, is on Boxee and its environment has the same look and feel as the standalone application.

The down side. For starters, Boxee is still in Alpha testing, so it might take you a couple of weeks to get your invitation after you've registered. It took two weeks for mine to turn up. Next, if you plan to run Boxee on your computer this is no problem, but installing on your Apple TV is more complex and requires the use of USB boot loaders and other things that might make Apple purists cringe. If you're game, instructions are available at boxee.tv.

If you can wait, Boxee plans on releasing its own media centre box some time this year, but details are still scant. When they do, however, the openness of the Boxee system will hopefully spur Apple to follow suit with Apple TV - a product that is begging for some third party developer input. ☞



Hotlinks

www.boxee.tv

BOX

High Performance Computing
Made for VFXCHROME
IMAGING

LASERGRAPHICS

The Director™
MOTION PICTURE FILM SCANNING SYSTEMTHE
FOUNDRY

fibrenetix

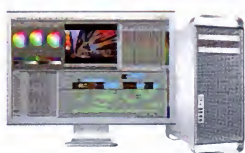
HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKSTATION
R.A.I.D. DESIGNED FOR THE AV MARKET

Avid

Media Composer



VIDEOBANK

Apple
Authorised ResellerTools for Realtime
Video and Audio Production

Apacer

vStor

Managed Dataflow and
Storage for Film & Video

H-Digital

modbook



The One and Only Tablet Mac®

The Axiotron® Modbook® is a revolutionary slate-style tablet Mac that enables users to draw and write directly on the screen.

Axiotron's innovative design and manufacturing process converts an Apple® MacBook® computer into a complete tablet solution, the Axiotron Modbook, while retaining Apple MacBook functionality.

Built for artists, mobile users, students and professionals, the Modbook's condensed form factor and integrated pen-based user experience offer unprecedented flexibility and control over the creative process.

Handwriting recognition built into Mac OS® X converts handwriting into printed text in every application and provides extended system control through gesture recognition.

The Modbook is the only portable Mac solution that also features a built-in Global Positioning System (GPS) module.

NOW IN STOCK AT H-DIGITAL

Available as complete units or as Upgrade Kits for existing Macbooks.



Introducing the new standard for excellence in tablet computing. **The Modbook Pro.**

The 15.4-inch Modbook® Pro is the ultimate tablet computer. Constructed from a unibody Apple® MacBook® Pro base system, Axiotron's Modbook Pro combines blazing speed and power with new cutting-edge hardware and software features. From its sleek aluminum enclosure to its innovative tablet tools, the Modbook Pro reimagines the tablet computing experience. The Modbook Pro features a multibody abstraction design made from precision machined aluminum. There are no exterior sheet metal or plastic parts, providing unprecedented structural strength.

Pen with touch. The best of both worlds.

The Modbook Pro employs revolutionary new Synergy™ Touch technology developed by Axiotron. Synergy Touch adds touch in support of pen-based input. Unlike any other touch-screen computer, the Modbook Pro's Synergy technology enables pen and touch input simultaneously.

Elegant black luster finish. Sturdy aluminum construction. Innovative engineering to retain the functionality of its base system. The Modbook Pro has it all.

Pre-order yours now.



modbook PRO
Imagination goes pro.

*the one and
only tablet mac*

AXIOTRON
www.axiotron.com.au

02-95026565



David Holloway has lots of Facebook friends, and he's more than happy to tweet about it.

The network is your Friend.

Facebook and Twitter, why bother?

If you haven't heard of Facebook, you must have been living somewhere with no Internet access, no job, and no access to the mainstream media that's reported on it extensively during the past year.

That said, the vast majority of people who will have heard of Facebook won't have used it and that is because so many people hold it to some degree of suspicion.

All social networking services face some hurdles in the minds of non-users — concerns over privacy, time constraints and even outright confusion. Some of these concerns are well founded. Have you ever noticed media using a person's Facebook page for wider public consumption? In light of this kind of usage, it's not too surprising some people worry about their place on the social web.

Below is a basic overview of two of the most popular services: Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook. Arguably the most widely used social networking website,

Facebook has stolen the thunder from MySpace during the past year. Describing how Facebook works is difficult, as it has regularly expanded what it offers, but here's how to have a closer look...

First, create a Facebook account (it's free). There's a fair degree of flexibility on the amount of personal information you provide on your public Facebook profile but be aware that registering under a fake name can get your account deleted. Be sure to check your privacy settings. Most people prefer that only friends and family they're linked to on Facebook are able to view their full profile. Ensure your preferences reflect that, otherwise anyone can view your profile. You can find friends or family via Facebook's search tool and add them as friends. They will have to accept your request to be friends before they're actually linked.

Now what? The power of Facebook (and most social networking sites) is the ability to communicate with multiple people at once.

Probably the most popular Facebook widget is each user's Wall. Think of a Wall as a bulletin board where you make comments. Those comments may be about something you've been doing that day, how you enjoyed a friend's wedding and other snippets of life. The comment you make on your Wall then appears on your friends' Walls (if they've chosen to allow that to occur).

This rapid, mass communication also has some downsides — if you end up with a large friends list, you end up having reams of information to digest, with all the associated time impacts. Or, as happens regularly, users just give up trying to keep up.

The most common response I get from non-Facebook users is "why bother?" My response is usually along the lines of saying that unless you like keeping in touch with the day-to-day lives of people in distant places, you may not actually want to bother. That said, many millions of people do bother, and contrary to some reporting it is possible to do so in moderation.

If you were wondering about the power that Facebook has in reaching out around the world, or whether this whole social networking phenomenon has any real power to influence, consider the following.

Facebook has more than 150 million active users. Most are young adults who have completed their tertiary education but the fastest growing demographic is the thirty-somethings. The average user has 100 friends. Worldwide, more than three billion minutes are spent on Facebook each day. More than 13 million users update their status at least once each day.

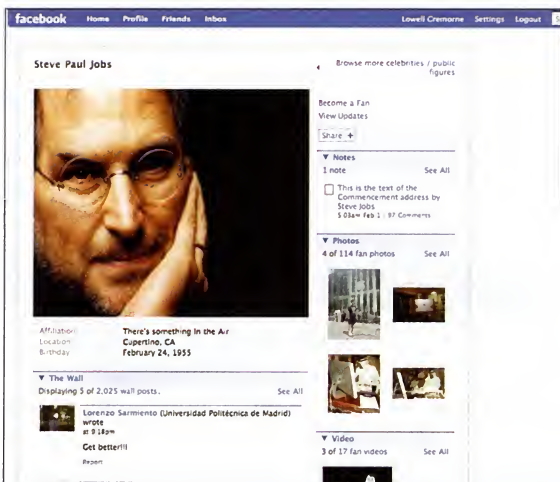
As a place for digital creations to flourish, Facebook is a nurturer par excellence. Each month, more than 800 million photos are uploaded to the site, as are more than five million videos. Also, more than 20 million pieces of content are shared each month. This content could include web links, news stories and blog posts.

And it's not a phenomenon monopolised by its country of origin. More than 70 per cent of Facebook users are outside of the United States.

Twitter. Compared to Facebook, Twitter is incredibly simple but just as compelling. Its interface is a breeze — it doesn't look that different to an iChat window. When using Twitter, the

Hotlinks

<http://www.facebook.com>
<http://www.twitter.com>



maximum size of any message you post (a tweet) is 140 characters. This can be quite constraining but it also fosters a lot of creativity in getting a message across in such a short format. Here's how to start tweeting...

Create an account with Twitter (it's free as well). Only minimal information is required to successfully register. Then configure your profile — again, you can be as sparse as you like. Your Twitter home page displays your username, location, website URL (if you have one) and a brief bio.

Use the search function to find people to "follow" on Twitter. Following someone means their tweets appear in your timeline.

As with Facebook, Twitter allows you to invite people from your address book as well. To start off, "follow" some well-known Twitterers such as Kevin Rudd or some of AMW's

writers who tweet regularly. Once following someone, you can reply to any of their tweets, with your reply appearing in their timeline. There's also a direct message option where only the person to whom you send the message can view it.

Twitter is a simple, free application that can be accessed on the web, via mobile devices or through shareware applications developed specifically for that purpose. Its learning curve isn't steep and its simplicity is what makes it so compelling.

A closer look. Until a year ago I was a total Twitter and Facebook cynic. I forced myself to have an in-depth look at both and over that time I've realised each one has its own special appeal.

For me, Twitter is the preferred option, but the reality is Facebook is the current world-beater and it certainly offers more diversions for its users. ☞



Needs NoteBook.

Stickies, scraps of paper, web clippings, meeting notes, reminders — take control of it all with Circus Ponies NoteBook, the award-winning application for managing information. Get organized using a familiar notebook interface, with pages and tabs, sections and subsections. "Clip" web research, e-mails and other content to your NoteBooks for later reference. Create voice-annotated notes and review them from your computer or iPod. Diagram and sketch when words won't suffice. Find anything instantly using NoteBook's patented Multidex™. Share your NoteBooks as PDFs or as websites. And much more. NoteBook has everything you need to get organized.

Download NoteBook right now and try it for yourself, **FREE** for 30 days.

www.circusponies.com/trialmwau



NoteBook

© 2009 Circus Ponies Software, Inc. All rights reserved. Circus Ponies, NoteBook, the NoteBook logo, and Multidex are trademarks of Circus Ponies Software, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Apple Store

mac
centric

next
byte

PICA
australia

Streetwise.com.au



SUPERCARGE YOUR BROWSER

Your web browser is among your most frequently used applications, so why not make your web surfing experience the best it can be?

If you're like me, you spend more time in your browser than in any other application. And it's not just the vast amount of text-based information available on the Web today that demands your time. With the emergence of the social web, it's also where we play games, chat with friends, look at photos, and even watch TV.

Chances are your most likely choice of browser is either Firefox or Safari (or both). The default installations of both programs work well enough, but it isn't hard to make either browser work even better. And given the time you spend with your browser, that little effort can pay big dividends through improved efficiencies and a more rewarding user experience.

Firefox's biggest advantage over Safari is its support for a huge library of easily installed third-party add-ons. Just select Tools: Add-ons to get started. Then, to add a specific extension, click on the Get Add-ons

tab and search for something useful. Or just click on Browse All Add-ons to see what's out there.

Safari, on the other hand, doesn't officially support third-party add-ons. But that hasn't stopped programmers from developing them. (Officially, these Safari add-ons are hacks.) The installation process isn't as easy as it is with Firefox, though — you have to find and download the add-on and then install it yourself. Some have installer utilities, others require that you copy files into specified directories. And once you've installed them, they can make your system seriously unstable. Furthermore, updates to Safari or OS X can break these unsupported extensions, rendering them worthless until their developers figure out workarounds.

Here are some of my favorite add-ons for Firefox and Safari and, in case those aren't enough for you, I've also compiled a few of my favorite setting adjustments for both browsers.

Cooliris

If you're visually oriented, if you spend a lot of time browsing Google Images or YouTube, or if you find it easier to shop when you can easily see the product, you should definitely check out Cooliris. This plug-in turns your browser into a full-screen image viewer. It's configured to work with a number of image-centric sites (including some you might not know about). It lets you, for instance, search for images on Flickr and then view them in a beautiful full-screen interface not unlike OS X's Cover Flow. You can browse topics such as news, sports, music, TV, and movies, all from Cooliris's visual interface. You can also jump into that interface by clicking on thumbnails in Google Images search results. Just keep in mind that Cooliris is a full-screen interface: it takes over your whole screen and keyboard. To regain control, you have to press the escape key. But for browsing image-centric information, Cooliris is, well, cool.

RRP free

Cooliris <http://cooliris.com>



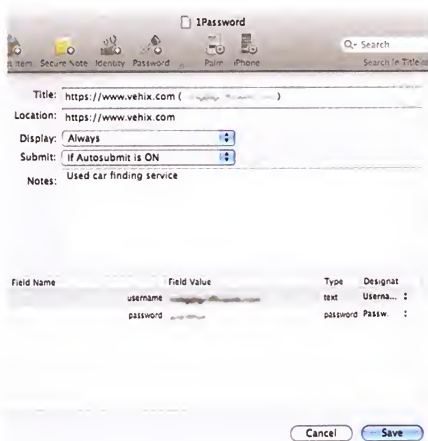
The 3-D Image Wall Cooliris turns your browser into a full-screen image viewer. You can browse travel destinations, shop at numerous online merchants, watch YouTube videos, and much more.

1Password

Logging in to websites – whether it's to post a comment on a forum, to place a bid on eBay, or to update your Facebook page – is something we all do many times a day. While Safari and Firefox both have password-management tools, the classic 1Password goes far beyond what they can offer. At the simplest level, 1Password securely stores (using OS X's Keychain) user names and passwords and fills them in for the websites you visit. But it also does much more. It can store multiple credentials for a single site, automatically generate (and remember) strong passwords, fill in personal information on registration forms, and let you share saved login information across Macs and with different browsers. 1Password works not only with Firefox and Safari, but also with Flock, Camino, OmniWeb, Fluid, and even NetNewsWire.

RRP \$63

Agile Web Solutions <http://agilewebsolutions.com>



Save Login Info.

1Password makes it easy to securely save website login info. And because it utilises OS X's Keychain, you can easily synchronise 1Password data via MobileMe.

Adblock Plus

Advertising is what keeps (most of) the web free – somebody has to pay for all that content, and that someone is almost always an advertiser. That said, some ad-supported sites go overboard, piling on so many flashing, screaming, moving advertisements and pop-ups that you can't even read the content you came to see. For sites such as these, Adblock Plus is the solution. It gives you full control over which items on a page are blocked, lets you view blocked content with a couple of mouse clicks, and lets you specify which elements you don't want it to block in the future. You can easily disable the program for specific sites where the ads aren't so obnoxious. Adblock Plus gives you finer control than other ad blockers, which is important on sites with a lot of multimedia content. Just remember that if you block all ads everywhere, you may someday be saying to your children, "I remember when the internet was free."

RRP free.

Adblock Plus adblockplus.org



DeliciousSafari

This plug-in makes using the social bookmarking site Delicious much easier. It adds a Delicious button to Safari's toolbar. One click on that button bookmarks the current page in Delicious. DeliciousSafari also adds a Delicious menu item that provides quick access to your tags and recently bookmarked sites. You can even create and arrange your favorite tags, which appear directly in the Delicious menu (instead of in the Tags submenu). You can also use the Delicious menu to jump to the Delicious website or directly to its various pages (such as those for account settings and subscriptions).

RRP\$16

DeliciousSafari <http://delicoussafari.com>



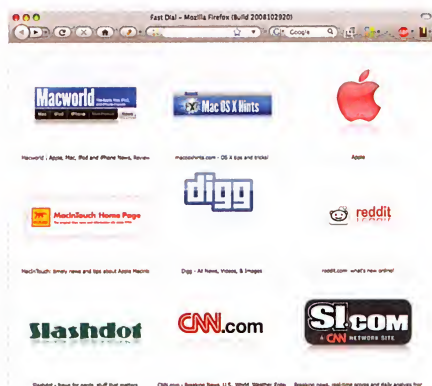
Fast Dial

Fast Dial is a speed dialer for your browser. Just as most phones can assign easy-to-press keypad combos to invoke frequently dialled numbers, Fast Dial turns a blank browser window into a collection of one-touch shortcut icons for your favorite sites. Fast Dial lets you specify how many icons you'd like to see on the screen, giving you fine-grained control over size, color, and font options. While viewing any page, you can add it to Fast Dial via the contextual menu. Once you've created your shortcuts, you can rearrange them in the window via drag and drop, and you can set custom icons for each. You can also assign keyboard shortcuts to your Fast Dial shortcuts – press the A key to load Apple's site, for instance. (Firefox already lets you do that, but Fast Dial makes it easier.)

RRP free

Telega

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/user/205886>



Speed Dialer for Browsing. Fast Dial lets you create iconic shortcuts to frequently visited sites

Inquisitor

Acquired last year by Yahoo, Inquisitor speeds your Web searches by displaying likely matches (for Google and Yahoo) before you even run your search. As you type in your browser's search bar, Inquisitor displays a drop-down menu that first shows likely matches for the words you're typing, and then displays teasers from the first few search results. Click on one of the automatic completions and Inquisitor will run your search with the selected word; click on a teaser, and it'll take you to the chosen page. By default, you'll see three websites listed in the drop-down menu, but you can increase that to a maximum of six.

RRP free

Yahoo <http://www.inquisitorx.com>



Read It Later

Do you ever come across web links that you'd like to read later but probably not keep forever? You might, like me, handle this with a To Be Read bookmarks folder. The problem with my version of this folder, though, is that I don't check it often enough. When I finally do check it, there are so many things in there that I just delete them all rather than wading through them. Read It Later is the solution to this problem. It acts like a gatekeeper for bookmarks. When you find a site of interest, you flag it by clicking on

Safari

While add-ons can give your browser new features, modifying its preferences can also markedly improve your browsing experience. Here are some of my favorite Safari tweaks.



If you use tabs for browsing (and you really should), go to the General tab in Preferences and choose In A New Tab In The Current Window as the Open Links From Applications option. This will prevent Mail, iChat, and similar links from taking you away from the page you're reading. Such links will instead open in a new tab in the current window, and won't come to the foreground.

Next, on the Security tab, choose Only From Sites You Navigate To as your Accept Cookies option. This will prevent most advertisers from creating cookies on your machine. You can also block pop-up windows here, though that can be troublesome on sites that rely on pop-ups for things like user login.

Finally, close Preferences and make sure that you've selected Show Status Bar in Safari's View menu. (If you have, you should see Hide Status Bar there.) The status bar is that row at the bottom of the browser window, and it's where valuable information about links and a site's other clickable items appears: hover your mouse cursor over a link, for instance, and its real URL will appear in the status bar.

Outside of Safari, if you have multiple Macs and a MobileMe account, make sure you've selected Bookmarks in the Sync tab of the MobileMe System Preferences pane. It's no fun to have to keep track of which bookmarks are on which machine.

a check-mark icon in the URL bar. You can then see flagged sites by clicking on the Read It Later icon in Firefox's toolbar. That will open a drop-down menu showing the sites you've saved as well as how long they've been in there. Select an entry to read it and that site will vanish from the list. You can then decide whether to make it a permanent bookmark or not. Another useful feature is Click To Save mode: when it's enabled, every link you click on is added to your Read It Later queue – it's a great way to browse news or social-networking sites such as Digg.

RRP free

Idea Shower www.ideashower.com



SafariStand

SafariStand is a do-nearly-everything add-on for Safari. It lets you use graphical thumbnails for tabs (à la OmniWeb), type abbreviations in the URL bar to run quick searches (for example, typing "g cars" will run a Google search for cars), search as you type (as in Firefox), change tabs via single-key shortcuts, apply syntax colouring to a page's source code (great for programmers) and create workspaces (a set of bookmarks saved as a unit). SafariStand's only downside is that large pieces of the English version of the documentation are missing or unclear (the developer is Japa-

Firefox

You can tweak Firefox's internal settings to make it a better browser. Here are the adjustments I recommend most often to Firefox users.

On the Privacy tab in Firefox's Preferences, make sure Accept Third-Party Cookies is not selected. This will prevent third parties from creating cookies on your machine. If you wish, you can use this pane to tell Firefox to clear private data whenever you quit the program and to specify how long to remember your browsing history.

Unlike Safari, Firefox doesn't use OS X's Keychain, so all of your username and password details are stored directly in the Firefox application bundle. If you use a laptop, I strongly recommend setting a master password to help protect this data in case your laptop is lost or stolen — you really don't want all of your web logins freely usable by anyone.

To do that, click on the Security tab, select Use A Master Password, and enter a password when prompted. Do not forget this password, or you won't be able to get to your saved web login information.

On the Advanced preference pane's General tab, you may want to select the Search For Text When I Start Typing option. If you do, Firefox will search as you type, letting you quickly find words on a page without first pressing command-F.

There are two more Firefox behaviors you may want to change, especially if you jump between Firefox and Safari (or other browsers) regularly. In Safari, clicking once on an address in the URL bar will merely place the cursor where you click; in Firefox, that single click will select the entire URL.

To make Firefox behave like Safari, type "about:config" (without quotation marks) in the URL bar and press return. On the screen that appears, type "browser.urlbar.clickSelectsAll" in the Filter box; that should find one match. Double-click anywhere on that line's row and the Value column will change to False. Close the window and you're done; a mouse click will now position the cursor in the URL bar. (If you prefer it the other way, repeat this process but leave Value set to True.)

The other Firefox behaviour Safari users may find disconcerting is that (unless the cursor is in a text field) pressing your keyboard's delete key is the equivalent of clicking on the browser's Back button. (The Mac's delete key maps to the backspace key in other operating systems.)

To disable this behavior, type "about:config" in the URL bar and then type "browser.backspace_action" in the Filter box; again, only one row should be found.

Double-click on the found row and enter "2" in the dialog box that appears; then click OK. That will disable the delete key as a Back button. (Follow these instructions again but change "2" to "0" to reverse the procedure.)



nese). Still, it adds a lot of power to Safari, so working your way through the interface is worth the effort.

RRP donationware

hetima.com <http://hetima.com/safari/stand-e.html>



Stumbi

If you like to use the StumbleUpon social networking website to discover sites that might be of interest to you, then you're probably aware that the site doesn't offer a Safari-specific plug-in. In fact, StumbleUpon recommends that you use Firefox, which does have a plug-in (see below). There are workarounds involving some JavaScript-based bookmarks, but they're far from ideal. Instead, try Stumbi, which creates a new menu in Safari. After you enter your StumbleUpon login information, you can easily stumble to a site (that is, choose a site at random), give a page a thumbs up or a thumbs down, e-mail the page's URL to someone, or see all the StumbleUpon reviews associated with a site. While not nearly as fully featured as the Firefox StumbleUpon toolbar, it works quite well for basic stumbling.

RRP \$6

Soya Software <http://www.soyasoftware.com>



StumbleUpon

The official StumbleUpon plug-in for Firefox is far more feature-rich than its unofficial Safari counterpart. Once it's installed, a new toolbar appears in Firefox. From there, you can stumble to random sites, stumble by channel, find new friends, send pages to contacts, and much more. There's also a configuration panel that lets you choose which channels and controls appear on the toolbar. You can choose whether to highlight recommended search results on Google, Yahoo; control how StumbleUpon pages open; and even create keyboard shortcuts for various StumbleUpon tasks. If you're serious about StumbleUpon, you'll definitely want to install and use this one.

RRP free

StumbleUpon (<http://www.stumbleupon.com/>)



Web Snapper

Have you ever tried to print a Web page to a PDF? The result isn't always the most readable output — page breaks happen in the middle of graphics or blocks of text, and margins may not be quite what you expected. Generally speaking, it's a mess, and you shouldn't have to put up with it. Web Snapper addresses this problem by creating PDFs that exactly replicate what you see on your screen. Web Snapper integrates with Safari via a toolbar button — you click on it to take a picture of the current site — but it will work with any browser as a standalone application that accepts drag-and-drop URLs. Regardless of how you invoke it, Web Snapper converts the URL it was given into a continuous PDF with everything on the page pretty much exactly as you saw it in the browser.

RRP \$23

Tasty Apps <http://tastyapps.com/>



Security 101

Network managers mutter the word "security" every time we want to install something or make some sort of change to the way our networks run. They issue passwords that look like missile launch codes to kindergarten kids and bolt down our computers so that they can be rendered virtually useless.

Why is this? Kids don't have anything really important that someone would want to steal, do they?

But it's more complex than this and, in this column, I want to help start a more useful conversation between user and manager rather than the battleground it can often resemble.

Of course, it's impossible to give a step by step guide to Mac security in 800 words, but remember this is a conversation starter; and for many who have PC-centric IT managers who have little knowledge of the Mac, it may open some doors.

Rights issues. Let's start with the machine itself. Should we give administrator rights to users? Most would argue that this will lead to unstable systems because all sorts of things will be installed that may be incompatible with your institution's system and you'll end up with a classroom where lots of machines won't work reliably.

Admin privileges will also allow the machine to be "fixed" by Uncle Fred with the same result.

So how do you cope with teachers (or kids) who need admin rights for some legitimate purpose?

The answers are fairly simple. If in a controlled environment, use

Workgroup Manager to create an administrative group on the client, which has a server-based group as its child (see Hot Links). This means that, should a silly person abuse his or her responsibilities, you can strip those rights by removing them from the appropriate group on the server.

Secondly, ask your IT person to look at the `/etc/authorisation` file where specific rights can be granted to users without the sledgehammer approach of total admin control. It's best to look at this file using a plist editor such as that found in Utilities once the Developer tools installer — on the second disc that came with your Mac — has done its thing.

For those teachers who "must have" total admin rights (principals, etc), explaining the need for care before authorising a system change will count for nought, because they'll just press Return without thinking. So, create a separate user and employ the "neutered admin" practise that makes them use a different username with their own password (see Hot Links). The slight time delay introduced here usually allows the higher-order thought centres to catch up with the hindbrain.

Irrespective of the above tricks, we still have the dreaded password issue to deal with. Here we need to understand the deeper reasons for passwords that the reputation of your institution and the reliability of its network.

Why shouldn't we give Kindy kids the user name K and the password K?

Your network will be exposed to the Internet in general: remote machines can contact your web server and mail server, the IT people probably have remote access so they can fix problems without being physically present. Somewhere, a script kiddie who runs a simple program which tries logging



on with a dictionary-based attack — which involves repetitively attempting to log on using a dictionary of words and letters for passwords — will crack the cunning "K" play in no time, easily compromising your network.

Once in, it's a fairly simple job to install a spam engine, and before you know it, your email domain is black-listed and no one gets any mail.

There are lots of other threats as well: launching Denial of Service attacks on remote websites, acting as a pornography repository, or as a malware distributor. With school Internet connections now commonly high bandwidth, they're increasingly desirable to hackers and it's not surprising that network administrators get a bit tetchy about passwords.

So, let's turn this into a learning opportunity. I could use a phrase that makes sense to me, say, "Password Hackers" — a film released in 2001. My password can be made from the first two characters of each word intermixed with the date (with upper and lower case thrown in for good measure): Pa20Ha09. Alternatively, replace letters with numerals, so that "Footwear", becomes "F00tw3ar", for example. This can be turned into an interesting game that alerts students to their responsibilities as a good digital citizen.

Some consider computer security as an oxymoron; maintaining that the only secure computer is one locked in a safe and disconnected, but, inevitably, it's a compromise. Let's start the conversation now so we don't have security compromising useability. ☞

Hotlinks

tinyurl.com/mgladminusers

Create network users as admins on networked machines

www.powerofmac.com

Neutered admins and other stories from the 2007 World Wide Developer's conference — still works fine under Leopard

tinyurl.com/mglhardensecurity

The good oil on hardening security on the Mac

THE WORLD IS YOUR PALETTE.

GO FOR THAT COLOUR!



MEET THE COLORMUNKI DESIGN
THE INNOVATIVE NEW WAY TO CREATE
YOUR OWN WORLD OF COLOUR.

ColorMunki design is an ideal designer's tool.

The All in One device gives you the freedom to capture any colour from any surface and build your own custom palette. Easily transferable to Adobe suite and Quark Express, the colours become active with click of a button. The snap tool lets you visualize the nearest Pantone colour next to your creation and Print Safe offers soft proofing option for your creation.

And YES it can also calibrate the monitor by capturing the ambient light, create custom printer and projector profile and plus more...


colormunki™
DESIGN


beyond creation

1300 728 411 sales@des-pl.com.au www.des-pl.com.au

CANON FODDER

Canon's latest high-def camera release is the HF-20. It's the smallest HD shooter from the company, weighing 340gm and small enough to fit into a pocket. Dual-flash memory provides 32GB of internal memory, enough for more than 12 hours of recording time.

Canon Legria HF-20

RRP TBA

www.canon.com.au



SONG ON AN OXX

Podcasts, radio over the intertubes, music streaming direct from your Mac or NAS device... say hello to the Oxx.

Supporting all major audio formats including WMA, AAC (unprotected), MP3 and Ogg Vorbis, the Oxx radio is as versatile as it is good looking. But you may not have much time to be too concerned about formats. You could be too busy choosing favourite Internet radio sounds from the more than 11,000 stations the Oxx will hook you up with providing you have a network connection, either LAN or wireless.

Oxx Classic Internet radio

RRP \$399

Smart IT Australia 02 8539 7612

www.oxxdigital.com



LOGICAL TECH

For some time now, Logitech's Harmony series has set the standard for universal remote controls. Now, with the release of the latest model, you have no good reasons left to struggle with that gaggle of remotes scattered throughout the family room. Still not convinced to take a look? Well... the Harmony received the 2009 Design and Engineering Award: Best of Innovations in the Home-Entertainment Accessories category at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Logitech Harmony 1100 Universal Remote

RRP \$899.95

Selected retailers

www.logitech-harmony.com





THE MOSHI BITS

Moshi produces a range of sleekly designed MacBook accessories, from slip covers to keyboard protectors to screen cleaners. Among the range is the zefyr pro, a cooling device for overworked MacBooks. It combines a USB-powered fan with "conductive heat dissipation through a compressive thermal interface compound cooling pad". Or, in other words, it's a portable, attachable heatsink.

Moshi accessories

RRP \$130

www.moshimonde.com



MOSHI WITH MORE

Also by Moshi, the iLynx is a USB and Firewire hub styled with a wedge design. It connects up to four USB 2.0 and two Firewire 400 devices and is equipped with DPS technology for supporting high-power I/O devices.

Moshi accessories

RRP \$90

www.moshimonde.com



MASTER BLASTER

The Rapier V2 is an eight-button USB laser gaming mouse with seven programmable buttons. It's able to store macro settings on-board, so keyboard and mouse functions can be saved directly to the mouse by using the Gamer Toolkit Software included in the pack.

Rapier V2 mouse

RRP \$89.95

Major computer retailers

www.verbatim.com.au



GADGET CENTRAL

Gear, gizmos and goodies for your
Mac or iPhone

BAG YOURSELF SOME STYLE

Stylish, beautifully made with quality materials and expertly finished, GeekIT bags are the right choice for mobile users who need a touch of class when lugging their Mac laptop about. The range extends from a budget model at \$39.95 through to the sleek Side Effect transit bag finished in grain leather, at \$329.95. The bags are designed in Australia with models suited to 13.3in and 15.4in laptops and there's an A3 portfolio bag as well, just right for well-heeled artists with some talent to travel with.

GeekIT laptop bags
RRP \$39.95 — \$329.95
GeekIT
03 9650 9433
www.geekit.com

Macworld is teaming with GeekIT to give away a bag each week over five weeks. To be in the running to win a bag, visit www.macworld.com.au/competitions to register for the draw.



RAID TO ORDER

The CalDigit VR is a twin-drive RAID system offering high performance and excellent connectivity in a sleek and upgradeable enclosure. It offers hardware RAID support for RAID 0, RAID 1, and JBOD. It has a quad interface supporting USB 2.0, FireWire 400, FireWire 800 and eSATA.

CalDigit VR RAID system

RRP TBA

www.eurekapacific.com.au



A WRISTED DEVELOPMENT

When talk turns to wristwatch phones, it's hard not to think of some old-school gadget kings — Dick Tracy, Maxwell Smart, James Bond —but the mobile phone watch range from NV Phones is here and now. The phone has quad-band reception, 3G and Next-G compatibility, free TV and radio and, on some models, even a twin-SIM model. Apparently, it tells the time, too.

NV Phones

Priced from \$395

NV Phones

0448 000 200

www.nvphones.com.au

BIRDS ON A TETHER

The Parrot MINIKIT Chic is a portable, Bluetooth hands-free kit with an elegantly profiled, sleek design. Pair it with a Bluetooth phone in the office, car or home.

Parrot MINIKIT Chic

RRP \$119

Telstra shops, Car Kit Company and selected retailers

www.parrot.com





TWO TONNE OF STORAGE

Can't get enough storage, right? Western Digital knows the problem, which is why the maker has released what it claims to be the first 2TB (yes, that's right, 2,097,152MB, less as formatted, of course) drive on the market. Should be enough to hold your iTunes library. For a while, at least.

Western Digital Caviar Green 2TB drive

RRP \$89.95

Major computer retailers

www.westerndigital.com

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Get your business cards in order. Scan the card, then save the scan data in the dedicated CardScan application where you can save it or export the data into Address Book. Anyone who collects business cards could save hours with this desktop device.

CardScan for Mac

RRP \$399

Officeworks,

Complete Office Supplies,

Office Max

www.cardscan.com



DOCK A DRIVE

NewerTech claims its Voyager Q is the world's first "Quad Interface" SATA I/II hard drive docking station with support for four interfaces: FireWire 800/400, USB 2.0, and eSATA. It turns any 2.5in or 3.5in Serial ATA (SATA) I/II hard drive up to 2TB into a fully bootable and hot-swappable external drive solution that's plug and play compatible with Macs and PCs. Sounds handy.

NewerTech Voyager Q docking station

From about \$150

www.newertech.com



Michael Jenkin is a Windows guru who turned to the Mac for inspiration. We hold the iPhone responsible.

Head in the cloud

Your data - wherever, whenever

The phrase "cloud computing" produces some bewilderment among computer users. It has been confused with other terms such as "grid computing" and loosely defined to a point where many people struggle to understand it. Time for some clarification.

Let's say you use a digital camera to take family photos. The photos are of little use if they remain on the memory card. Downloading the images to a computer enables editing but sharing is key, so how do you view or edit the images from anywhere in the world? How do others view them?

You eventually discover you can upload your photos onto the Internet. Once the photos are held by a photo sharing site (such as Flickr) they can be edited within your Internet browser. Using this service, people can start commenting on your photos and request copies. You realise that a particular photo needs editing and, after making changes at home you might, at a later time, access the site at a friend's location over their network connection and continue editing.

This is "cloud computing". And it's a reality. Right now.

Cloud computing can be defined as a style of computing in which resources are provided "as a service" over the Internet. It encompasses users who don't need (or want) any knowledge of, expertise in, or control over the technology infrastructure that supports them.

Regardless of the type and brand of computer you use, this technology is available to help store, access and edit files from anywhere in the world. We no longer need to carry our files with us, thus freeing us from our



workstations and installed software. The data in the cloud will be accessible whether you use Safari, Internet Explorer, Windows Mobile, Google Android, Nokia software or an iPhone. The cloud is platform-agnostic.

The most widely publicised example of cloud computing is Google Apps, which provides common business applications online that are accessed from within a web browser. The software and data is stored on Google's servers. Google backs up and protects your data while you gain authenticated access from anywhere in the world.

The Google Apps suite includes Calendars, Email security, Email archiving and Email encryption, and Google Docs. It was the first to gain any real traction with users and will likely be the first of many.

New kids on the block include the ZoHo word processor and Apple's iWork.com – each of which are cloud-enabled applications.

Cloud computing can also allow collaboration between users. Files written on the Apple platform in Safari will open on a Linux or Microsoft Windows machine using an Internet browser. Imagine chatting online with your team of employees or co-workers while everyone is writing into the same document and amending changes "on the fly". This is the alluring promise of the cloud.

Most businesses have Internet access. Imagine the potential cost savings on server storage and soft-

ware applications if you could have your data processing and document production occurring in the cloud. There would be time saved in keeping software current because it "just happens" in the cloud. The latest features are installed and you can see the benefits the next time you use the application.

In a challenging economy, businesses are looking to save money on everything from fuel to software and licensing. The benefits of a telecommuting or "e-commuting" mobile workforce include faster response times (including out of business hours), more hours of productivity and less travelling.

Businesses save on office space, staff facilities and can gain higher staff morale and more internal collaboration. It means accessing content at any time of the day or night. Cloud computing is touted as the evolution and enabler of these business trends.

The cloud is here to help pursue business and personal computing in a far different and yet more connected way.

Having been in IT for 20 years, I can honestly say I have no idea what the future holds. With every evolution of computer technology, users develop unexpected ways to make use of newfound functionality.

One would think software licensing should become cheaper as physical media is removed from the process. However, the trend will likely be towards limited or free ad-supported products with an option for a subscription service to a more substantial offering – not unlike the free or "lite" versions of iPhone apps that can be upgraded to more robust or featured versions. ☞

Michael Jenkin is a senior systems engineer who runs his own consultancy. He is also an authorised Apple reseller.

Hotlinks

<http://www.google.com/apps/>
<http://www.apple.com/iwork/>
www.zoho.com

New Bluelounge Products



The Sanctuary

RRP: \$190

Simple and compact design conceals a universal charger compatible with over 1500 electronic devices and a USB port. Works with iPhone and Made for iPod certified.



SpaceStation

RRP: \$140

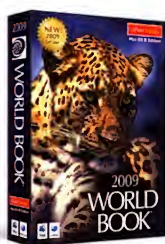
Ergonomic laptop rest, with integrated 4-port USB hub & cord management. Also includes a business card slot and a very handy page holder to keep documents upright for easy reference.

CableBox

RRP: \$59

Under or on the desk, next to the computer, or behind the TV, loose tangled cables are always untidy dust traps. CableBox is the solution to solve these issues.

New from Software Mackiev



RRP: \$79.95

World Book Encyclopedia 2009

The most ambitious World Book edition by far, the 2009 version includes thousands of new and updated articles, maps, and photos, the World Book Trivia Challenge Game, and content for your iPod and iPhone.



RRP: \$49.95ea

ClueFinders Adventures

Made for children ages 9 -12+ the ClueFinder series has been remade for the Mac by Software Mackiev, the two titles are presented in a format of a TV cartoon adventure show to combine learning with fun.

iSkin fuze for iPhone 3G

Inspired by an innovative dual-layer design that "fuses" shock and impact protection in a single package, the fuze's soft inner-layer and hard polycarbonate exterior wrap perfectly around your iPhone 3G's subtle dimensions. The result is powerful everyday protection in a lightweight, bulk-free and stylish bodyguard that looks as impressive as it performs.

Includes touch-friendly screen protection, an integrated docking port protector, complete device button coverage, accessible silence switch, and featuring a transparent protected area that enables optimal sensor functionality.



RRP: \$64.95

EG&E. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. Prices do not include delivery. Images for illustration purposes only.

Distributed by Try and Byte.

Unit 17, 6-8 Herbert St, St Leonards NSW 2065
Tel (02) 9906 5227 • Fax (02) 9906 5605
www.tryandbyte.com.au
info@tryandbyte.com.au

Available from:

Apple resellers: apple.com/au/buy

Apple retail: apple.com/au/retail

Apple online: store.apple.com.au

Hotlinks

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/guided-tours/>
<http://www.apple.com/iwork/>



iLife & iWork

*Our first look at Apple's
 upgraded multimedia and
 productivity suites.*

EVOLVE



The newest version of iLife costs \$129 for a single-user version or the whole household can get in on the fun with a \$169 Family Pack, which allows installation for up to five users.

iLife '09

iPhoto '09

Places and Faces give you more ways to organise your photos

Apple's iPhoto has always been a rich and satisfying consumer level photo-editing program with lots of neat extras – including like the ability to create books, calendars, cards – thrown in for good measure. iPhoto '09 takes advantage of some cool technologies, such as face recognition and geo-tagging, as well as social networking, to make for a supremely interesting upgrade.

Faces. The two most notable new features in iPhoto '09 are Faces and Places. They make it possible to quickly – and sometimes automatically – organise your photos by the people in them or by the locations where they were shot.

Using face-detection technology, iPhoto can now identify faces in photos. It's easy to pair a name with a face – just click the Name button at the bottom of the iPhoto window. The program draws a square around each face in a photo and lets you type in the name of each person. Moving through the rest of an album, if iPhoto recognises a face you've already named, it will suggest that name. If the name is correct, you just click the check mark. If not, you can enter the correct one.

Places. The other marquee feature in iPhoto '09 is called Places. Just as Faces helps you organise your photos by



The new iPhoto can recognise which part of an image is a face, making it easier to identify the people in your photos.

who's in them, Places lets you organise them according to where they were shot.

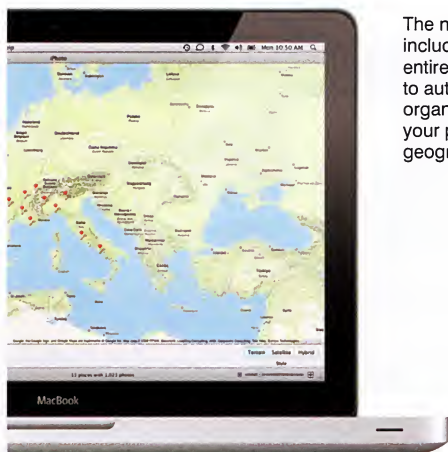
If you have a GPS-enabled camera or are snapping shots with your iPhone 3G, Places works without any input from you. Click the Info button on each photo, and it flips over to reveal both the location and a map (based on Google Maps) with a pin marking the spot. You can view the map in terrain, satellite, or hybrid view.

If you have an older camera, a first-generation iPhone, or images in your library that are not geo-tagged, you can still use Places. All you need to do is click the Info button on a photo or event and type in the location information—the name of a place or an address will do. As you do, iPhoto will tap into the Google Maps database of named locations to auto-suggest places; you can also manually add a place to the list.

Sharing and editing. While iPhoto '08 did a nice job with slideshows, iPhoto '09 does even more. It comes with several new themes and numerous ways to customise titles, music, speed, and other visual elements. You can now export shows as movies, send them to iTunes, and sync them to your iPod, iPhone, or Apple TV.

Convenient new Facebook and Flickr buttons give you a one-click way to share photos or slideshows on those social networks.

In sum, iPhoto '09 looks to be a worthy upgrade for most iPhoto users. But look for the final word in our review next issue. — Jackie Dove



The new iPhoto includes Places, an entirely new way to automatically organise your photos geographically.

The new iMovie includes project themes, including Comic Book, which can add some visual panache (including opening and closing credits) to your movies.



iMovie '09

Latest version adds depth, power to video editor

Many people hated iMovie '08. While that version was supposed to make Apple's video editor more accessible, it was widely (and justifiably) criticised for lacking many of the features found in its predecessor, iMovie HD.

Apple has apparently been listening to those critics. Based on my initial look at the program, the updated iMovie '09 adds depth and power that '08 lacked.

While the latest version won't please everyone, it appears to be a dramatic improvement over iMovie HD in many ways.

Image stabilisation. In my opinion, the killer feature of iMovie '09 is image stabilization. This means that iMovie can reduce the effect of a shaky camera and make video sequences look like you were using a Steadicam.

It does this by comparing each frame pixel-by-pixel with surrounding frames, to see how much the camera is moving moment to moment. The program then uses image-stabilisation technology to compensate for the effects of shaky shooting, resulting in a remarkably stable image.

For each clip, you can turn stabilisation on or off, or specify the amount of stabilisation. Because the process involves some zooming and cropping of clips, you may find that stabilisation cuts off parts of clips you want to see.

Project Library. The Project Library interface in iMovie '09 has received some useful tweaks. Instead of just a textual list of projects, you get a "filmstrip" preview of each project. You can scrub through each project, and even play it, right in the Project Library.

There's also a full-screen browser that lets you scan your projects or clips using the Cover Flow interface that Apple seems to love so much.

The new Precision Editor lets you fine-tune transitions between clips. It gives you a zoomed-in view of each transition, letting you tweak both the transition point between the clips and the relative positions of the clips at the point of transition. You can even choose different

transition points for the audio and video tracks of the two clips.

Precision Editor. The Precision Editor in iMovie '09 give you much finer control over transitions between clips when you're editing. As for special effects, perhaps the most impressive of the new effects is the ability to speed up or slow down clips (using a slider or a manually-entered percentage of speed). The effect is applied immediately with no rendering delay.

You also get a number of aesthetic effects, including vignette, cartoon, and aged film. The video-effects panel and main playback area display live previews; you can skim either to get a quick look at how each effect looks. Unfortunately, you're still limited to the effects, titles, and transitions that come with iMovie '09. It, like iMovie '08, doesn't support plug-ins or other add-ons.

Chapters and comments. One of the things missing in iMovie '08 was the ability to send a movie project to iDVD for burning to disc; iMovie '09 restores this feature and improves on it. You can also use chapters for navigating your project during editing and a handy pop-up menu lets you jump to chapter markers in the project view. — Dan Frakes

GarageBand '09

Learn to play piano and guitar from the stars

The biggest new feature in GarageBand compared to GarageBand '08 is its ability to teach you how to play music on real-world instruments. The iLife music program now comes with built-in guitar and keyboard lessons.

These lessons are offered in two components: Basic Lessons and Artist Lessons. As the name implies, the first teaches you the basics of that instrument—where notes are, forming chords, and playing rhythms. The latter are music lessons that include an artist who teaches you how to play both simple and advanced versions of one of their songs. (Sting teaches "Roxanne," for example, John Fogerty "Proud Mary.")



The new Garageband includes music lessons from famous musicians, such as John Fogerty (above).



GarageBand now includes a much broader collection of guitar effects — both amps and “stomp boxes”.

The new GarageBand include music lessons from famous musicians, such as

In a guitar lesson, you can view not only the instructor and fretboard but also view chords, tabs, and lyrics. If you're left-handed, you can see the guitar fretboard in that orientation. In a keyboard lesson, you can view the bass clef notation alone, just the treble clef, or both together. You can specify multiple views in the videos—zooming in on the player's left hand, for example. And you can isolate the audio—listening to only the instrument, for example, without the instructor's voice, or muting the band.

Fresh interface. Lessons aren't all that's new to GarageBand '09. The interface has been reworked so it's less cluttered. For example, the Loop Browser is now incorporated in the pane to the right that you can expose or hide, the effects area is more graphically rich, and the overall color scheme is more consistent with other Apple apps.

You also have more template options for new projects. GarageBand '09 includes templates to include Piano, Loops, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Keyboard Collection, Voice, Songwriting, and Podcast. Choose one of these project types and GarageBand's window is populated with appropriate tracks.

GarageBand '09 also emphasizes the program's ability to model guitar amplifiers and effects. While you could select different amplifier models in previous versions of GarageBand, doing so is much more intuitive in GarageBand '09. You can choose from among five amp models, which sound similar to those made by Fender, Marshall, and Vox. You can then adjust volume, tone, on-board effects (such as spring reverb) and other parameters using controls that mimic the knobs found on the original amp.

Finally, GarageBand '09 includes an enhanced version of Magic GarageBand, the feature that lets you play along with a virtual band. In this version of GarageBand not only can you jam with the band as you could in the past, but you can now also record your performance. In addition you can mix the levels of the various instruments that appear in the band. — Christopher Breen

iWork '09

Pages '09

Page-layout app adds more templates, better mail-merge

Template choices. Pages '09 sports the same redesigned template chooser that's a part of all three iWork applications. While at first it may seem like little more than window dressing, you'll see it's much easier to wade through Pages' collection of templates. (There are 40 new ones added to the 140 templates that came with Pages '08).

Moving your mouse over a template now gives you a preview of all the template's available page types. This preview provides a nice way for you to select your template without first having to open the entire template and view all the pages. Another welcome addition to the template browser is an Open Recent button at the bottom left of the window that lets open recently used documents in just two clicks.

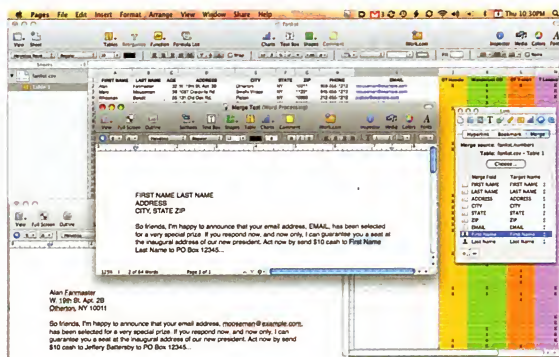
I'm a real fan of distraction-free writing—meaning you seen nothing on-screen but your text. So I find Pages' new Full Screen mode to be a welcome addition to the program.

In full-screen mode, Pages hides everything but the essentials: All inspectors disappear, as do the formatting and menu bars at the top of the screen. All you see is your document set on a black background. At the bottom of the screen, you see a live word count and your current page number. Moving your mouse to the top of the screen reveals the formatting bar, if you want to adjust your fonts. If you need more formatting options, you can select Show More... options from the line spacing and list menus, which open those inspector palettes. Apple wouldn't want you to go distraction free: the iTunes's mini-player floats nicely in the black area of the screen and allows you to adjust volume, and skip tracks without leaving full-screen mode.



Pages' new Template Chooser lets you quickly access recently opened documents and preview all the pages available in any template.

Pages now lets you merge a list of addresses from a Numbers spreadsheet into a Pages document.



Improved mail merge. One of my chief complaints about Pages '08 was its limited mail-merge capabilities. The chief limitation being you could only merge addresses from Apple's own Address Book app, making Pages useless in business environments where you might want to merge data from other, more robust apps. Pages '09 can now merge data stored in Numbers spreadsheets. In initial testing, I took data stored in an Excel spreadsheet, opened it in Numbers, formatted it the way Pages requires, and found it worked great. I had to do some minor reformatting, but overall the process was seamless.

Pages '09's other intriguing new features include a new outlining mode, in which you can quickly create an outline and then convert it to a regular Pages document. Bouncing between the two formats is as simple as a button click, and it's easy to specify the amount of text you see in the outline view.

The live word count you see in full-screen mode is also available in regular view. Pages '09 also integrates with MathType 6 and EndNote X2, for adding mathematical expressions, endnotes and bibliographies to your documents. And the app's AppleScript capabilities have been seriously upgraded.

These may seem like minor changes. But cumulatively they make it clear that Apple has listened to what Pages users wanted and updated the program accordingly.

— Jeffery Battersby

Numbers '09

Apple's spreadsheet handles formulas and charts better.

Apple's iWork productivity suite gained a new stablemate: Numbers, a new take on the traditional spreadsheet. Numbers '08 was easy to use, with an elegant interface, but suffered from limited graphing options, slow speed, and lack of AppleScript support. Numbers '09 remedies many of those problems.

Formulas. I'm an old spreadsheet hand, but I found creating formulas difficult in Numbers '08. When you inserted a formula using the tool, it would be inserted with

word placeholders, as in `=DATE(year, month, day)`. You would then have to erase the word placeholders before entering a value (cell pointer or fixed value).

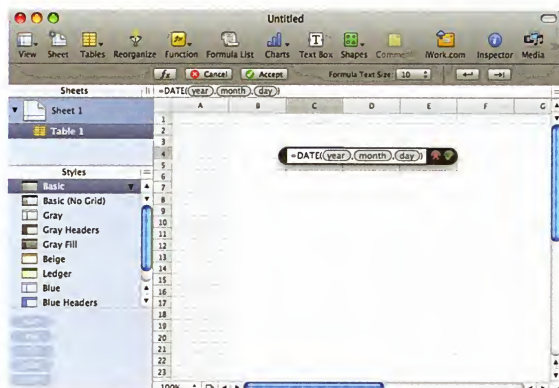
In the new version of Numbers, the variables in the formula appear in colored circles. To replace a variable with a value or cell reference, you click once on the variable to make it active, then either type a value or click in a cell on the table to insert a cell reference. This makes formula entry much simpler.

That's a particularly good thing, because Numbers now has more than 250 functions to choose from. Fortunately, there's a really convenient Formula List button on the toolbar that will display every function on your tables. For each function, you can see its location, results, and formula. You can even search this list, and do find-and-replace operations on the formulas.

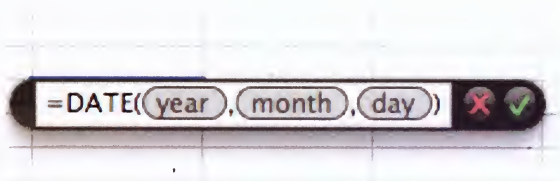
Charts. Charting is also greatly improved in Numbers '09. There's a new mixed chart format that allows you to overlay one data set on another in the same graph (i.e. a line graph on a bar chart), as well as a two-axis chart for graphing data with differing units and/or scales on one graph. You could, for instance, plot both rainfall amounts and wind speed over time on one graph, with differing axes for each data set.

Tables. While Numbers still doesn't support pivot tables, a common method of working with tabular data available in most every other mainstream spreadsheet application, Numbers '09 adds a feature that Apple calls Table Categories. Table Categories provide much of the power of pivot tables, while bypassing most of the complexity of setting them up. You can create categories and sub-categories for your columnar data (group by state, then by product type), and easily reorder the tables (group by product type first, then state) with a couple of mouse clicks.

Another welcome change in Numbers '09 is the ability to link live Numbers' charts in Pages and Keynote documents. A linked chart can be updated with a simple button click. Unfortunately, you can't embed raw tabular



In Numbers '09, the placeholders in formulas are much easier to work with; a single click on one of them lets you start editing it.



data, just charts. Finally, AppleScript support has been added, so you can now do things such as take the selection from a Numbers table and turn it into a Keynote bullet slide, all via AppleScript.

There are numerous more subtle improvements in Numbers. There are, for example, two interesting new number formats for worksheet cells: Duration (for time-spanning values) and Numeral System (which lets you switch from the usual decimal system to binary, octal, or any other base). Cells can now have custom display formats, in addition to the formats provided by Numbers. You can create a password for a spreadsheet that users will be required to enter before opening the sheet. It's now possible to freeze rows and columns, and filling up and left in addition to down and right.

— Rob Griffiths

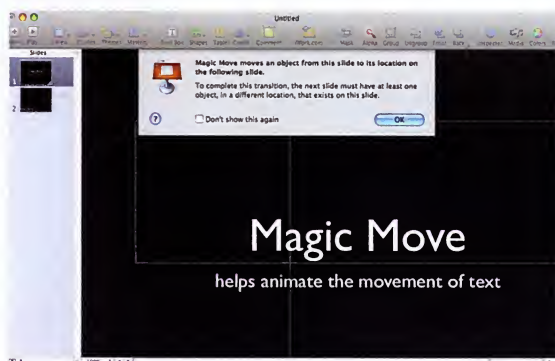
Keynote

Presentation software update updates interface, adds effects

As someone who's relied heavily on Keynote since its debut, I scrutinise each release for fresh ways to jazz up my presentations and get my work done faster. Keynote '09 has several exciting new features — as well as a few old shortcomings.

Improved interface. Keynote '09's main window and toolbars are almost untouched but Apple has added several welcome enhancements behind the scenes. For example, the redesigned Theme Chooser sports a dropdown menu that lists recently opened files and it adds a slider that lets you magnify the theme thumbnails.

Relative spacing and sizing guides — new options in Keynote's Rulers Preferences — make it easier to distribute objects evenly or give two or more objects the same height or width.



Keynote's new Magic Move transition effect lets you move and resize text from one slide to the next; it also works on fills, strokes, and more.

Keynote's workflow improvements extend to Presenter Display. A small toolbar that appears when you move the cursor to the top of the screen lets you see miniatures of all your slides and jump to any one, or customize the Presenter Display on-the-fly. The digital timers at the bottom of the screen are easier to read, too.

New transitions. New animation options are now expected with every update; Keynote '09 is no exception, sporting several novel effects and nine new transitions. Magic Move, the most innovative of the bunch, is my favorite so far.

Let's say you want to start a presentation with your company's logo centered and then have it move to the bottom right for the rest of the slides. To do that, you create a frame with the logo centered, duplicate the slide, drag the logo to the corner of the duplicate, and finally apply the Magic Move transition to the first slide. When you play the show, Keynote generates a smooth motion path between the logo's two positions.

Keynote's table features have improved as well. In addition to the seven existing cell formats, Keynote '09 supports Duration, which formats numbers as units of time, and Numeral System, which shows cell values in any base from 2 to 36. There's even a feature that lets you define custom cell display formats.

What's missing. Regrettably, Apple hasn't remedied one of my long-standing complaints — Keynote doesn't let you play audio files that only span a selection of slides. Plus, I was disappointed to find out that Keynote doesn't mark hyperlinked text that's been clicked.

Overall, though, I'm pleased by what I've seen of Keynote '09 so far. — Franklin Tessler

Apple has crafted new versions of all three apps in its iWork suite: Pages (the word-processor/page layout tool), Numbers (its spreadsheet) and Keynote (for presentations). The new iWork costs \$129, with a family pack available for \$169. Apple is also bundling iWork '09 with iLife '09 in a \$279 (or \$380 family pack) Mac Box Set that includes Leopard.



A U S T R A L I A N Macworld

Whether you're new to computers, or just new to Mac, or whether you're an experienced Mac user looking to hone their skills – you'll find the book of value



**GRAB
YOUR
COPY
NOW**

SUBSCRIPTION:

1800 804 160

Corporate Deals Available

subscriptions@niche.com.au

www.niche.com.au/magazines/view/MB



Fixing Startup Problems

What to do when your Mac takes too long to boot

Your Mac was running fine. It started up quickly, it was zippy when you worked and snappy when you played. But suddenly something's wrong. When you start it up, it takes longer — maybe a couple of minutes, maybe more than it once did. What's slowing things down?

There can be a lot of reasons your Mac is taking longer to start up. Here are the troubleshooting steps you should take, in order, to find out what's wrong and fix it.

Among the reasons are issues that may have been introduced with the installation of new software, especially with software that is required to control or manage a computer peripheral. Other causes may include disk problems, login items or perhaps security software examining network connections.

Hardware Peripherals. The first thing to check are the peripheral hardware devices connected to your Mac. Sure, they might have been working just fine before the slowdowns started

but, unfortunately, electronic devices can go bad.

First, disconnect every external hardware device but your mouse and keyboard. This includes hard drives, printers, scanners, extra input devices, hubs, network cables, and even cables that connect to your iPod. Restart your Mac.

Startup still slow? If you have a spare mouse and keyboard, disconnect your current input devices, then connect the spares and restart. If the problem persists and if you use wireless AirPort networking, select your Internet connection in the Network preference pane and make sure the correct DNS servers are listed in the DNS Server box. They should be the ones specified by your ISP. If unsure, visit the website of your ISP. Most list their servers on their support pages.

Let's say you're lucky and one of these steps resolves the slow startup and the problem device reveals itself. If not, you can then figure out which device is the problem by reconnecting your peripherals one at a time

and restarting after each addition.

If and when your startup chokes up, the last peripheral you added is the problem.

Alternatively, you could connect half of your peripherals and then restart. If that works out, connect the other half and restart. If the problem crops up in either case, split the offending subset in two and repeat until you narrow down to the culprit. Don't forget that, in rare cases, it may be the combination of two peripheral devices that is causing the problem and this can be difficult to isolate. You just need to keep plugging away at it.

New Software. Assuming your peripherals aren't the problem, you should turn to the next suspect: recently installed software.

Did you add any new programs lately? Did you update Mac OS X or any of its components such as QuickTime, Safari, or any other system update that required you to restart your Mac? Did you update any drivers (software that runs a device such as a printer or scanner)?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, the first thing to do, if possible, is uninstall the suspect software. For a recently added new application, you can try to remove it using either the uninstaller that came with the program or a utility such as the \$20 AppZapper (<http://www.appzapper.com>).

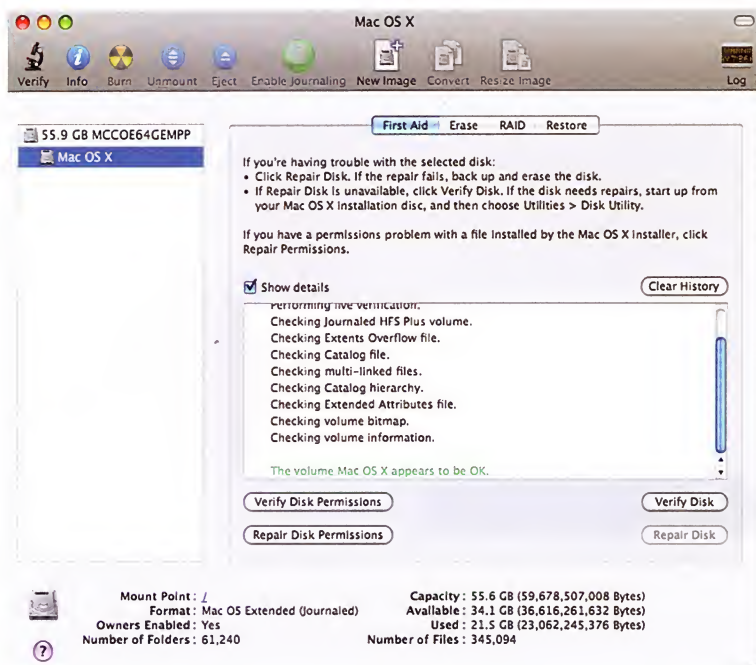
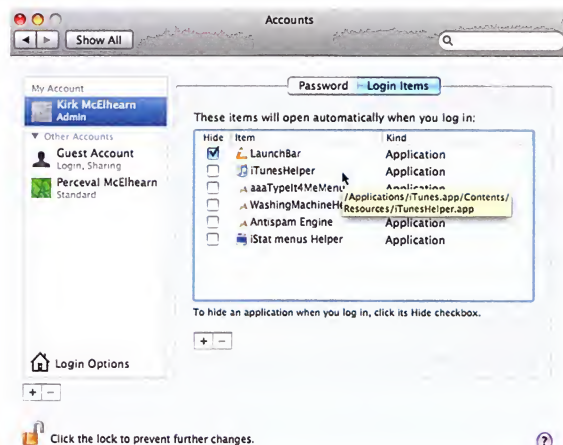
Removing updates to the operating system or its built-in apps (Safari, et al) is trickier. If you have a recent backup of your system, such as a Time Machine backup, you could try restoring the entire system to the state it was in before you installed the suspect software. Don't restore individual folders (such as System or Library). You need to restore the whole thing.

Again, go step-by-step: uninstall all your new software, then reboot your system. If startup goes faster, add the new software back one piece at a time, rebooting between each reinstall, until you identify the culprit. If removing all that software doesn't help, move on to the next step.

Note: if your Mac has been taking a long time to reboot since you installed a system update, the slowdown may be normal; several recent OS X updates have caused this problem, and you'll just have to wait for the fix from Apple.

What's Loading? It may be that neither your hardware nor your new software is causing the problem. In that case, your next suspect is software that is or isn't loading at startup.

Login Items List. Choose an account in the left column to see all of its login items. Hover the cursor over an item and a tooltip will appear, showing its path.



Check the Startup Disk. Use Disk Utility to check your startup disk for problems. If it finds any, reboot using your OS X install disk and run Disk Utility from there.

To find out if login items are causing the problem, press and hold the shift key just after you enter your user name and password at the login screen; this temporarily disables login items. (If your Mac is set to log in automatically, press and hold the shift key as soon as the blue screen appears on your monitor.)

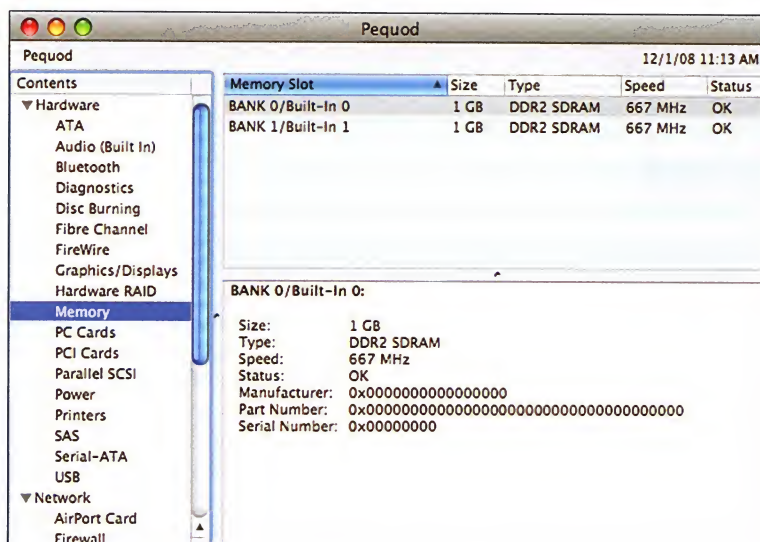
If disabling login items solves your slow startup problem, you need to identify which item is the cause. In the Accounts preference pane, click on the Login Items tab. Scan the list: do you see anything there that you don't recognize? Sometimes programs you no longer use leave items on this list. If you're sure you don't need an item, select it and click on the minus-sign (-) button to delete it. Then reboot and see if that helped.

Assuming the problem persists, next you should check the items that load at system startup (as opposed to your own individual login). Most such items are in the /Library/StartupItems folder. Apple discourages developers from installing items here, but some still do.

To determine whether any of these items is causing your slow startups, restart your Mac and hold down the shift key as soon as you hear the startup chime; this tells OS X to do a Safe Boot, which means it'll load only essential kernel extensions. If your Mac starts up quickly in Safe Mode, move the contents of the StartupItems folder to the desktop, then try restarting to see if that resolves the problem. Does startup still go quickly? Then you know something in that folder is causing the problem. Add the items in it back one at a time until you replicate the slowdown. Caution: Do not move anything from the /System/Library/StartupItems folder; only Apple's software resides there.

Disk Problems. Now that you've eliminated peripherals, software, and startup items, your next suspect is your startup disk. If you have multiple hard disks in your Mac, the problem could come from any one of them not mounting correctly.

To find out if this is the problem, open Disk Utility (in the /Applications/



Check the Hardware. Look in System Profiler to make sure your Mac's components are properly accounted for.

Utilities folder) and use it to check all of your hard disks: select a disk in the left column, click on the First Aid tab, then click on either Repair Disk (for a non-startup disk) or Verify Disk (for a startup disk). Check your startup disk first.

If Disk Utility says the startup disk needs repairs, you will have to boot off your Mac OS X installation disk. From there, run Disk Utility from the Utilities menu. If Disk Utility finds errors on other disks, it may be able to repair them, but in some cases it cannot. In that instance, you should use a program such as DiskWarrior, which can repair many disk problems that Disk Utility can't handle.

System Profiler. If a hard drive isn't causing the problem, other built-in hardware could be. To make sure your Mac's innards are healthy, go to the Apple menu, choose About This Mac, then select More Info to open System Profiler. Click on Hardware in the Contents column and check the information shown there about your Mac's model, processor speed and quantity, and installed RAM.

If the amount of RAM isn't what it should be, some memory modules may be unseated. In that case, you'll need to open your Mac (if you can) and make sure your RAM chips are

firmly ensconced in their slots. Alternatively, you could take it to a nearby Apple Store or another reputable service agent.

It's more serious if System Profile reports the wrong number of processors. In that case, you'll definitely need to have your Mac checked out professionally.

Checking Logs. Have you come this far without resolving the problem? It's time to start checking your Mac's logs. You can view them using the Console application located in the Utilities folder.

In particular, look at all the log entries that occurred just after startup. Click on All Messages in the left column and scroll up until you find messages from localhost kernel at the time you restarted your Mac. Scan the log from this point on for any error messages suggesting that software did not load correctly because it couldn't be found. Those messages shouldn't be too hard to spot. They'll say something like "could not load".

If none of these suggestions solves your startup woes, search Apple's support pages at <http://support.apple.com> for "troubleshoot startup." —Kirk McElhearn

Tools of the tirade

There can be few computer problems more frustrating, even infuriating, than having a hard drive that is playing up, especially when intermittent problems leave you wondering whether performance issues are related to hardware or software.

If, after working through the troubleshooting tips on this page, you suspect that your hard drive is damaged in some way, you may want to use a diagnostic tool to test it with. But what are the options?

Home-grown solution. You have a utility to help diagnose your hard drive and it came with your Mac. It's on your OS X installer disk. (It's also in Applications/Utilities but in some cases you may have to run it from a startup disk.) After inserting the disk in your Mac's optical drive, you can specify it as the startup disk in System Preferences/Startup Disk. After making a language selection, you'll have access to Disk Utility (from the Utilities menu). Disk Utility doesn't give you many options but it can come in useful as a starting point. Just be careful not to give the OS installation the go-ahead.

Techtool Deluxe. If you bought into Apple's extended care program, you should have been issued a copy of Techtool Deluxe. It's only a diagnostic tool, able to check the integrity of many system components such as RAM, drive hardware and disk formatting. It's a good tool for finding out what you next need to do.

Drive Genius (http://www.prosofteng.com/products/drive_genius.php) is an award-winning repair tool. Able to diagnose and repair a wide range of problems, and even offering a sector edit tool for those who know what to do with it, Drive Genius should be in every Mac user's maintenance toolkit. Maker Prosoft likes to boast it's the tool of choice at Apple's in-store genius bars. Version 2 is current and will be reviewed next month.

DiskWarrior. Whenever you bump into discussion threads on the web regarding disk maintenance tools, you will find at least one poster insisting that Alsoft's Diskwarrior (<http://www.alsoft.com/DiskWarrior/index.html>) should be everyone's tool of choice for solving problems. I can't vouch for it, having not used it, but it carries the highest recommendation of the many who have.



Hotlinks

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/scanner2.htm>
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/scannerart/>

Digital imaging, flat out

Scan your horizons for art that's right under your nose

Baulking at shelling out for an expensive digital camera? Never mind. There's one sitting on your desk, right next to your Mac. It's called a scanner.

Image capture with flatbed scanners is one way to involve yourself in radical imagery that has great appeal to dabblers, youngsters and those who are ideas-rich but find themselves knowledge-poor (and perhaps suffering a tight budget).

Many decent flatbed scanners can be bought for prices well under \$200. Higher specified models are often less than \$500. Many will accept optional transparency adaptors so that you

can scan opaque objects as well as transparent/translucent items.

Scanners are, in the main, used for fairly mundane purposes such as copying graphics, converting text to data, and so on. Little realised, however, is their role in the creation of captivating artistic images, aided and abetted in no small measure by the tricks and turns of specialised or commonly available image editing software.

For this story I set to work with my everyday scanner, the CanoScan 9900F, as a digital art studio test bed. An ideal scanner it proved to be, too, with not only high resolution for scanning reflective documents but a

back-lit scanning lid that covers a full A4 area.

There are scanners on the market that will do front and back-lit scans but almost all will cover an area of up to four to six 35mm frames or four 6x6 cm images.

Taking a Leaf. I began with a tomato leaf group, freshly plucked from the garden. I had done some scanning of this type of object a while ago and had forgotten about the traps in capturing an image of an object with both front and back lighting. I thought it would be a knockover. How mistaken I was.

As I intended to capture the leaf with both reflective (front light) and transmissive scans (back light) I needed the scans to match precisely.

The trick is that the object must not move between scans. This can be difficult to manage as the back-lit scan mode needs a backing sheet placed between the scanner lid (which holds the light source) and the glass bed, under which the scanner array travels to capture the front-lit scan. It's tricky to keep the subject stationary while switching between scans but with practise it can be done.

An ideal situation is that, for the front-lit scan, the object must be backed by a white or black card, depending on the object's colouration. You may like to experiment with different backing sheets to achieve different effects.

Despite the challenge of keeping the scanned object still, I eventually completed a pair of matching scans. Now I could approach the fun part.

In Photoshop (you could do this with any app that features Layers, such as Graphic Converter or Nolo's Iris)

Tomato Leaf. Notice how the two scans are merged to give more radiance to the humble tomato leaf image.



Marbles, Seashells, Shirt. For the front-lit/back-lit technique, the ideal objects are those with some degree of translucency.



Hibiscus. Three hibiscus blooms were front-lit and back-lit to achieve these elements, subsequently blended to maximise their colour and structure.



I overlaid the back-lit scan onto the front-lit scan of the leaf; the former is the one that I would tweak.

Venturing into Photoshop's Curves functions, I altered the brightness and contrast of the back-lit leaf image. Suddenly, I could see the semi-transparent leaf's structure along with the front-lit leaf's detail and bright colouration. By varying the opacity percentage of each layer I could vary the degree of detail within each layer. The possibilities were endless with the interplay between the changes of detail in each layer providing varying results of delightful subtlety.

You may just find that making images with a desktop scanner is far more compelling than merely snapping pics with a digital camera.

Hibiscus. We've got a stack of hibiscus trees at our place. If you keep away from the sharp thorns, the copious flower bursts are dramatic. So let's scan three buds. This time I decided to place the three flowers on the glass platen and closed the lid flat for the two scans. Sure, the flower was flattened but now the depth of field (the amount of the subject that comes into focus) was also decreased to manageable proportions.

Two scans: front-lit and back-lit. Took a minute or two. Then I placed both scans into a new Photoshop document.

In similar fashion to my efforts with the tomato leaf I twisted and tweaked the pair of the images to end up with a result that far surpassed any capture I could have made with a digital camera. The radiance of colour in this process is controllable and the image fairly jumped off the screen.

And that's the magic of our desktop camera — it can take you to places the digicam can't go and help you create imagery that is outside the scope of conventional photographic techniques using even the most expensive dSLR.

Taking it further. Then I began to gather more found objects to scan

in this manner: a remnant of an old shirt, some marbles and even a clutch of seashells.

Each was a challenge, mostly because of the need for the objects to remain motionless between executing front and back-lit scans. Each offered endless opportunities to blend the two scans together.

This is a large part of the fun with this kind of project. There is no "right" or "wrong" with how you transform real-world objects into digital form. The only constraint is your sense of creativity. Even then, happy accidents can reap a joyous discovery.

There are a few types of scanner but they all work similarly. In the examples for this story, I used flatbed devices that sit on the desktop. There are film scanners designed to capture 35mm and 6x6cm film negatives and transparencies. These do a fine job but do cost quite a bit more and demand careful operation. They also have strict limits on the size of item to be scanned and are no use for objects such as A4-sized flat artwork.

The humble flatbed scanner can scan documents, artwork, coins and stamps, badges as well as in some models — such as Epson's RX-series multifunction printers — film originals.

Much like a digital camera, a scanner has a degree of depth of field or degree of sharp focus from the glass platen upwards. Most scanners will deliver a sharp image 10mm or 12mm from the glass.

However, something to be aware of is that you consequently experience a degree of light fall off as the light source fails to correctly illuminate the object. — *Barrie Smith*

Considering your options

There's a range of scanners on the market to suit different tasks and to fit a range of budgets. Here's a selection that will suit the projects on these pages.



HP's Scanjet G3110 scanner can record an area equivalent to five 35mm frames or 2.4cm x18cm in back-lit mode.



Capable of capturing a 21cmx29cm back-lit area, the Epson's Perfection V700 scanner is well-suited to the tasks in this digital art project.



Canon's CanoScan 5600F can scan a back-lit area of 5.6cmx22cm.

BYO scanner

Like to build your own scanner that you could take anywhere? Hop over to www.sentex.net/~mwandel/tech/scanner.html and see how one guy did it. The how-to was penned by a clever guy who worked on the original BlackBerry project back in 1998. Here's someone who clearly needs constant challenges.

How a Scanner Works

The average flatbed scanner has much in common with a photocopier, coupled with a touch of the genius found in digital cameras and even a TV set.

The main difference between the two is that the scanner captures an image in strips, or lines, and can take seconds and minutes to do so, while a digicam captures the picture in an instant.

A scanner captures a picture that you or I can see and converts it into digital data that a computer and software can deal with. The scanner achieves this by moving a scanning head across the picture to record the image, line by line. This function is not very different from the way a picture is created on a TV screen — be it cathode-ray tube, LCD or plasma variety — using a line-by-line, dot by dot imaging method.

In use, you open the scanner lid, place the item you want to scan face-down on a glass platen, close the lid and press a button, or tell your software to start the process.

In operation, the scanning array moves progressively along the platen until it covers the entire scan area. The scanning head contains a light source and an image sensor such as a CCD, side by side. As the unit travels, the light shines up onto the subject and reflects the information off a mirror, which reflects the image to the CCD (the mirror is required as the light path to the CCD is obscured by the scanning head). The image data is subsequently transferred from the scanner to the computer.

A scanner is clever enough to scan colour or greyscale information, depending on how you set the device. In colour mode, the machine scans the data in red, green and blue. Some scanners do this with one pass or with three (on each for red, green and blue).

With a preview scan complete, you find an image has been delivered to your computer in the file format of JPEG, TIFF or similar — the preferred file format is typically user-definable. The image will

pop up in the preview window of your scanner software.

But it's still data. At this point you must open up your favourite software — my image editor of choice is Photoshop — and deal with the image, manipulate it, resize it, duplicate it, crop it and so on.

Remember that, in the context of this digital art project, there is no right or wrong in how you choose to manipulate your image. It's all up to you to exercise your own creative decisions.

Back to front. In back light scanning mode a light source in the scanner lid is fired up. The scanning array still moves across the object to be scanned but now the light source is behind the object.

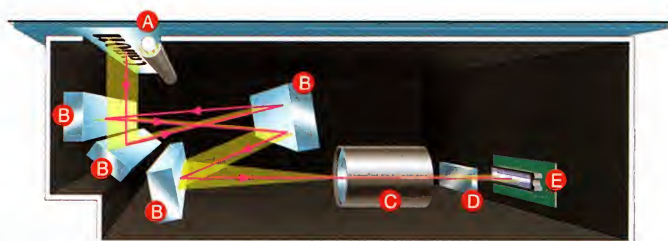
With the more commonly used front light mode, the scanner array sweeps along underneath the glass platen as the light source, either a fluorescent or LED lamp, plus a lens and sensor travels the length of the scanning area. This scans the art you have placed on the platen, illuminates it, and captures the artwork or object in digital form.

Making a resolution. You must, of course, select the scanning resolution to scan the object. I suggest a setting of 300dpi for starters; this will enable you to make a 1:1 print at a printer setting of 300dpi. So, if the object measures 10cm x 15cm, the final print, without scaling, will be the same size.

But this is where the magic of the desktop scanner comes in to play; select a scan resolution of 400dpi or 600 dpi and you will get much larger final scanned sizes to enable you to make prints of 13cm x 19.5cm or 20cm x 30cm respectively, by running the printer at a 300dpi setting.

You can really think about a scanner as an enlarger: it can capture an image of a very small object, scan it at a high setting and finish with a very large image on a very large print.

Many scanners can operate at resolution settings of 2400dpi or even 4800 dpi. Imagine the amazing images you could produce after capturing an image of a tiny bug or botanical specimen.



A Light source, **B** Reflective mirrors — light hitting the document passes through the lens and forms an image on the sensor. The light is reflected back and forth several times by the reflective mirrors before it reaches the sensor via the lens, **C** Lens unit, **D** FARE glass — adjusts for differences in optical lengths between infrared and normal light, **E** CCD Sensor — converts light hitting the document into electrical signals, **F** Carriage — optical unit equipped with a light source, mirrors, lens, and sensor, **G** Carriage drive motor, **H** Light source for film scanning, **I** Controller — processes image data from the sensor before sending it to the user's computer.



Diagram supplied by Canon.

Getting to grips with Finder views

Save time by getting the right perspective on your files

One program every Mac owner uses is the Finder. It's your Mac's filing system and overseer. We all know how to open, move, and copy files, but most of us go about our business without ever considering the most efficient way to get these tasks done. Here's how to use the right view at the right time, and save time and trouble in the process.

Flexible Icon View. OS X uses Icon View by default. Select it by choosing View: As Icons, pressing command-1, or clicking on the Icon View button in a Finder window's toolbar (see "Icon View"). This view shows your files as familiar icons.

You can place icons wherever you please, but also change how this view looks. From the View Options inspector (View: Show View Options or command-J), you can, for example, adjust grid spacing (how close together icons appear) and choose a color or picture as a folder background. The second option (rarely used) lets you set, say, a green background for folders containing important files, and a blue background for folders containing documents you need to edit.

The options you set in the View Options inspector apply only to the selected folder, unless you select the Use As Defaults option—this will apply the change to all folders that use the current view and that haven't already been customized in some way.

Compact List View. If Icon View were the only choice for organizing files, many Mac users would be lost. Lots of people prefer the more compact List View (View: As List or command-2). In this view, you see file names, dates (when the files were either modified or created), sizes, and more.

The View Options inspector lets you choose which columns to display. Since List View is made up of columns, it's easy to change the order your files appear in; just click on a column header to choose an attribute to sort by. For example, click on Date Modified to see the most recently changed files at the top of the list, and click on that header again to change the sort order and show the oldest files at the top.

One of List View's biggest advantages is that you can open folders and browse their contents in the same window. Click on the disclosure triangle next to a folder's name, and the folder's content appears below. You can open and close as many folders as you want, and go to as many sub-levels as you want. To close a folder, just click on the disclosure triangle again.

Powerful Column View. Column View (View: As Columns or command-3) shows your files within their hierarchy—you see the folders and files above and below your current folder; each level is a separate column. This makes it easy to move files without having to open multiple Finder windows. Just drag a file from one spot to another in the hierarchy. So Column View is helpful, for example, when you need to zip up and down your Mac's hierarchy to find specific files and move or copy them to other locations. However, this view can get confusing, especially because when you click on a folder, the Finder may shift all of the window's columns to display its contents. You may have to scroll back and forth horizontally to keep track of things.

Cover Flow. Apple introduced Cover Flow View in OS X 10.5 (Leopard). Choose View: As Cover Flow or press command-4 to view your files and folders as glossy graphics, with reflec-

tions, in the top section of a window; the same files are shown in a list in the window's bottom section. (You can't change that bottom section's appearance.) Cover Flow is a great way to view your iTunes library, but it's not very useful for everyday file management because it limits the number of files you can see at a time.

That said, Cover Flow View is a wonderful tool when you need to sift through a folder of photos, videos, or even text files. If you increase the size of your window, Cover Flow View can display huge previews. This is helpful, for example, when you need to find a Word document or a Numbers spreadsheet with specific content at the beginning. (No matter how big the preview is, Cover Flow displays only the document's first page.)

— Kirk McElhearn

Below:
Got you covered. Cover Flow (top) may not be the most practical Finder view, but it sure is the prettiest.

Perennial favourite. Icon View (bottom) lets you work with your files and folders much as if they were on an actual desktop. If things get messy (as they were here), select Choose View: Clean Up, and the icons snap to a grid.



KeyOptions
Technology

Dashboard not working

STM Query
of the month

Just wondering why my Dashboard has just stopped working on my Mac? Even if I go to applications and click on the dashboard icon nothing happens, no error message or anything. I tried downloading a widget and attempted to install it but, again, nothing happens. I then tried an archive and install (getting desperate) and still nothing changed. I am using Mac OS X v10.5.5 on a MacBook.

Busdi,
via AMW forums


Try deleting the two Dashboard plists. In the Preferences folder in the Library folder in your home folder (/user/Library/Preferences) find any plists which start with "com.apple.dashboard". Throw them out. Log out. Log in. Should be fixed.
genshin,
via AMW forums

Each month STM (02 8338 0222) gives a medium Rogue backpack to the Australian Macworld reader

who send in or posts to the forum the most intriguing query.

STM's medium rogue backpack creates mischief for would-be thieves by concealing the laptop compartment from view and hiding it in an internal wall of the bag – so nobody knows you're carrying a laptop except you.

Medium rogue features STM's unique protection system, cushioning the laptop with high-density padding and a foam suspension cradle. Its clean design makes the backpack ideal for streetwear as well as the boardroom.

Send your query to amweditor@niche.com.au or post in the forums at www.macworld.com.au/forums. All queries and solutions are the sole property of Niche Media. 



1. Create a new podcast episode.
2. Add a new software instrument track by clicking on the Plus button below the track list and choosing Software Instrument track from the sheet that appears.
3. Click on the Info button to expose the Track Info pane.
4. Select Sound Effects in the left column and choose any sound effect set you like in the right column.
5. Choose Window: Musical Typing.
6. Open the Loop Browser and drag the sound effects you want to use to keys on the Musical Typing keyboard. (You can also drag AIFF files from the Finder to this keyboard to add them.)
7. Click on the Details triangle in the Track Info window and click on the Save Instrument button.
8. Name and save your custom sound effects instrument.

You now have a system for triggering up to 18 sounds with the Mac's keyboard. To call them up in the future, just create a Sound Effects track and choose the sound effects instrument you created. Should you forget which sound is mapped to each key, click on the Details triangle on the Musical Typing keyboard. Next to the name of each key you'll find the sound effect mapped to that key.

— Christopher Breen

Get your audiobook CD into iTunes

As digital music players such as the iPod have become commonplace, audiobooks have become increasingly popular. While it's great to listen to music while commuting or

exercising, you can use some of that time to listen to your favorite author or the latest non-fiction bestseller.

You can download digital audiobooks from the iTunes Store or Audible, but you can also buy audiobooks on CD and add them to your iTunes library. Here's how to best deal with those CDs. Ripping Audiobook CDs. If you buy CDs, ripping audiobooks is a snap. However, you won't want to use the same import settings as you do for music, because spoken word doesn't need the same audio quality. So, before you rip the first CD, go to iTunes: Preferences, click on the General icon, then click on Import Settings. If you're only planning to listen to the audiobook on an iPod or in iTunes, choose AAC Encoder from the Import Using menu. (If you want to use the files with other players or software, choose MP3 for better compatibility.)

From the Setting menu, choose Custom. You'll see settings for Stereo Bit Rate, Sample Rate, and Channels. For bit rate, choose 64 kbps. Leave the sample rate at Auto and, from the Channels menu, choose either Stereo or Mono. For most books, Mono is fine. I only use Stereo for full-cast productions such as plays, where several performers are spread across the soundscape. To get the most out of your encoding, select the Optimize For Voice checkbox. Then click on OK, then on OK again twice to save your changes. (Make sure to note the settings before you change them, so you can change them back to what they were for music when you're finished ripping your audiobook.) — Kirk McElhearn



Keith White
has been a Mac
addict since 1984
and can't fathom
why anyone isn't.

Open up

Mac users a cult? You be the judge



Author **Kobi and Ron Shely**
Publisher **Chimp 65 Productions**
Run time **54 minutes**
RRP visit www.macworld.com.au
for details as they come to hand



Author **Rob Baca and Josh Rizzo**
Publisher **Baca Productions**
Run time **82 minutes**
RRP **US\$19.84**

This month we're looking at two DVD documentaries telling the same story but in different styles. The story of the evolution of the Mac and why so many Mac users are, well, different.

MacHEADS The Movie opens dramatically with the definition of a Machead being typed on a Macintosh screen. Then cut to a series of short grabs from a number of Mac addicts trying to explain their problem. We are at the 2007 MacWorld Expo and people from all over the world file past the camera proudly announcing their home town. We meet freaks wearing bizarre Mac gear and folks that have camped all night to be at the head of the queue.

The drama builds as we follow the faithful into the Moscone Center and the climax as Steve Jobs takes centre stage. This is the year Apple dropped the word "computer" from its company identity.

The movie asks how a mere computer can inspire such unbridled affection and offbeat behaviour. Is the Mac a cult? If cult is defined as a relatively small group of fanatical devotees, whom are not necessarily evil, then perhaps yes. Rewind to the

1984 commercial and the first Mac Expo in 1985. Macintosh luminaries including Dan Kottke, Leander Kahney, Guy Kawasaki and even Woz himself explain how the Mac, with its graphic usability, was always going to be different from the rest.

Nicely shot and tightly edited, *MacHEADS The Movie* strikes a careful balance between grabs from Macintosh luminaries and the rest of us. It's a story of joy and gratitude, showing to younger Mac users Apple's incredible journey and reminding older stalwarts of the good old days.

Welcome to Macintosh is considerably longer than the previous title so expect more depth and detail.

The movie unfolds in smoothly connected sequences, largely chronological. Not surprisingly, many of the same Mac celebrities who appeared in *MacHEADS* are also in this movie. Many of them introduce themselves in the first section "My First Mac".

It begins with Wozniak and Jobs — the hacker and the salesman. An unlikely pair, or were they? Then meet the first Apple reseller and learn how the birth of the Mac became a necessity as the IBM PC began to outsell the Apple II. Then the dark days, beginning with the departure of Wozniak and Jobs in 1985 and the inability of the next three CEOs to move the company forward. Throw in the emergence of the first widely usable Windows system and Apple's demise seems imminent.

Until, that is, the reappearance of Jobs in 1997 and his first left-fielder, a \$150 million partnership with Microsoft. Jump aboard the roller coaster for the innovation ride of your life starting with the iMac and then rolling out Airport, the G3 line, the Cube, the iPod, iTunes, the G5, the Mac mini, the switch to Intel, Apple TV, the iPhone and the MacBook Air.

Following similar themes to *MacHEADS* we meet some wildly diverse members of the Mac community, witness the emergence of the Apple Stores, follow the pilgrimage of the Mac zealots to the annual MacWorld and consider whether fondness for Macs actually constitutes cult behaviour.

Other equally fascinating segments include the emergence and growth of the Mac rumour mill, product placement in Hollywood blockbusters, the birth of the iPod community, the uneasy dependence on Steve Jobs and the continuing status of the Mac as a symbol of revolutionary freedom.

Welcome to Macintosh is less funky in style and has fewer vox-pop segments than *MacHEADS*, favouring a more considered approach through extended interviews with the main commentators.

These two engrossing visual tributes to the Macintosh legend are skilfully constructed with great soundtracks and should find a place in any Mac lover's library. 

Hotlinks

welcometomacintosh.com
homepage for *Welcome to Macintosh*
<http://www.filmbaby.com/films/3402>
distributor of *Welcome to Macintosh*
www.macheadsthemovie.com
homepage for *MacHEADS The Movie*



Streetwise.com.au

STREETWISE SOFTWARE PTY. LTD.



Authorised Reseller

Latest Macs

Mac Memory

iPods & Accessories

Free Training

Great Prices

Australia-Wide Delivery!

Mac Bonuses!



FREE
Kingston
8GB USB
Flash
Drive!

RRP \$1649
\$1599

MacBook 13" White

FREE!



Bonus STM Glove valued at \$44.95!

MacBook Air 13" 1.6GHz*

*Apple Part # MB003X/A

RRP \$1899
\$1829



FREE RAM Upgrade to 2GB!

FREE!

iMac 20" 2.4GHz

RRP \$1599
\$1549

Roxio Toast 10 Titanium

Everything you need to edit, copy, burn and share your digital media and data files.



NEW

RRP \$179
\$154

Titanium

Enjoy all the power of Toast 10 Titanium plus Blu-ray video authoring and four award-winning photo and audio applications.



NEW

RRP \$249
\$219

Titanium Pro

iLife '09



Get the most out of your photos, movies and music.

RRP \$129
\$119

H2o Audio iSH2 Waterproof Headset for iPod shuffle

The H2o Audio iSH2 headset allows for an all-in-one waterproof solution for the iPod shuffle. Allowing you to listen to music during active watersports like swimming, while having functional control of the player when in the water.



RRP \$110
\$99

NO CREDIT CARD SURCHARGE!

iWork '09



Documents, spreadsheets and presentations the Mac way.

RRP \$129
\$119

FileMaker Pro 10

Manage people, projects, assets and more - the easy way!



NEW

FileMaker Pro 10

RRP \$499
\$469

FileMaker Pro 10 Advanced

Advanced development and customization tools.



NEW

FileMaker Pro 10 Advanced

RRP \$799
\$749

FileMaker Pro 10 Upgrade

RRP \$299
\$285

FileMaker Pro 10 Advanced Upgrade

RRP \$495
\$464

Mac Box Set



Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09 and iWork '09 all in one box.

RRP \$279
\$265

Ph: (03) 9818 2100

Visa, MasterCard, Amex & Diners. **No credit card surcharge!**
826 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn Victoria

Streetwise and the Streetwise Logo are registered trademarks of Streetwise Software Pty. Ltd. Mac, iPhone and iPod are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. All prices include GST. Prices and specifications correct 29/1/09, but may be subject to change without notice. Errors and omissions excepted.



A U S T R A L I A N Macworld

Autumn Subscription Offer

Sign up to AMW in March and receive these bonus gifts:

1 YEAR:

Cableyoyo POP Cable Manager

The Cableyoyo Pop is a tiny flat plastic cord winder with a suction cup that you can pop onto an iPod, MP3 player, mobile phone or other devices to keep your cords coiled and protected. It also comes with a belt clip and 10 different pop-art decals for personalising the product.



2 YEARS:

iGrip (iSticky) Pad + Cableyoyo POP Cable Manager

The iGrip is a white rubber pad designed to grip onto any hard surface, preventing "slippage". The ingenious design offers a non-adhesive / non-magnetic option to keep your iPod, iPhone and other mobile devices in place. Perfect for the car dashboard, the pad is washable, removable, reusable and temperature resistant.



Subscribe now:

2 years \$129 (save \$38) or 1 year \$79

Subscribe online:

www.niche.com.au/subscriptions
and get \$5.00 off the subscription price!

Freecall: 1800 804 160

*Promotion available to residents of Australia only.

29413_1

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
RRP
Distributor
Reviewer
Hot links

Cinema Display

24in LED

★★★★

Excellent viewing angle; single, three-headed cable provides power, USB 2.0 connectivity, and a signal

Works only with Apple's latest laptops; no swivel, pivot, or height adjustment; settings are difficult to customise

\$1499

Apple

James Galbraith

www.apple.com



Laptop Companion

LED Display is a new MacBook owner's delight

Apple's new LED Cinema Display is the company's first display designed specifically for use with its laptops. It has a bright, glossy screen and some very appealing features. The most controversial feature is the Mini DisplayPort connector, which is based on DisplayPort technology developed by VESA (Video Electronics Standards Association).

To use this display you need a MacBook, MacBook Pro or the current MacBook Air, each of which has the Mini DisplayPort. Apple has said that all future Mac products will include Mini DisplayPort support, and converter cables and boxes may be in the offing. But in the meantime, this new monitor has a very limited audience.

Other features include a mercury-free LED backlight that warms up faster and may last longer than the CCFL backlights found in most LCD monitors. A single, three-headed cable is permanently attached to the display, providing power to your laptop via a universal MagSafe power plug, giving you a video signal through the Mini DisplayPort, and connecting your laptop to a three-port USB 2.0 hub on the back of the display. The display also has a built-in iSight camera and microphone.

Mirror image. The screen's specifications are fairly standard for a 24in display, with 320 nits of brightness, a 1000:1 contrast ratio, a 178-degree viewing angle, and an average response time of 14ms. The glossy screen can help give depth to images on screen, but some people may find it very distracting.


I looked at a range of different test files on the LED Cinema Display and found that it has an excellent viewing angle, with little or no color shift at almost all vantage points. Gradients appear smooth, and text is sharp and legible, even at very small point sizes. Except at the extreme edges and corners, color uniformity is

excellent across the screen. I wasn't able to find dead or stuck pixels on the screen.

A little too cool. When viewing a full black screen, I noticed some minor light leakage from the bottom of the screen that keeps the display from looking as dark as LaCie's excellent 324. The display is a little too bright and cool, with whites having a subtle bluish hue. The LED Cinema Display benefited from calibration with our Eye-One Display 2.

I've seen displays with faster response times than the LED Cinema Display's 14ms. But I didn't experience problems while watching movies or playing games on it.

Height of disapproval. I have two pet peeves with the LED Cinema Display (and Apple displays in general), and they both have to do with customisation. First, the stand allows you to only tilt the display. I can live without the ability to rotate and swivel but I can't live without the ability to adjust height. My second beef has to do with adjusting the screen settings. The display has no buttons on it, but a brightness slider is available on your Mac's keyboard. Any other adjustments require a trip to the calibration tools in the Displays preference pane.

Australian Macworld's Buying Advice. The LED Cinema Display represents many firsts for Apple. It's the company's first LED backlit stand-alone display, the first external display designed specifically for Apple laptops, and the first Apple monitor to sport the new Mini DisplayPort connection. Its lack of compatibility with other Macs and its lack of customisation settings are disappointing, but it's a good fit for its limited target audience. The LED Cinema Display is bright, environmentally conscious, and looks great next to a new MacBook. 

View your options, make your choices. *Australian Macworld* puts latest-release hardware and software through its paces.

RATINGS KEY

Outstanding ★★★★★

Very good ★★★★

Good ★★★

Flawed ★★

Unacceptable ★

Dangerous ☹

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
RRP
Reviewer
Hot links

Calaboration 1.0.1

Productivity

Easy to use

Confusing permissions issues

Free

Dan Frakes

<http://code.google.com/p/calaboration/>

Google calendars and iCal play nicely... mostly

Google's Calendar feature has become a popular part of the company's suite of online tools and has become even more appealing to Mac users thanks to the addition of support for the CalDAV protocol. You can now use iCal to work with your Google-hosted calendars, editing and syncing events from one to the other, and even responding to invitations.

To make this interaction easier, Google has released a nifty utility called Calaboration for adding Google calendars to iCal. After you launch Calaboration and enter the e-mail address and password for your Google account, the program shows all your Google Calendars. Just check those you want to work with in iCal and click on the Add To iCal button; the next time you launch iCal, those calendars will appear in the calendar list and iCal will check for updates.

Because iCal doesn't properly handle read-only CalDAV calendars, such calendars are grayed out in Calaboration unless you enable them in its preferences. (However, iCal doesn't check the permissions on read-only calendars, so while it appears to let you make changes, when you try to sync those changes with the server, you get an error.)

Unfortunately, Google Calendar's iCal integration isn't yet perfect, but I can't blame that on Calaboration, which does what it's supposed to do and is very easy to use. The only real issue I've seen is that for one of my Macworld colleagues, Calaboration showed a particular Google calendar as read-only, even though he has write access; when he forced Calaboration to add the calendar to iCal anyway, he was indeed able to edit events.

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
RRP
Reviewer
Hot links

Keynote Remote

iPhone app

Easy setup, graphical view of slides

Tricky portrait/landscape switching, slow response

99c

Anthony Caruana

[via iTunes Store](#)

Stage Hand

iPhone app

Displays builds remaining on slide, clear display of notes

No slide view, needs helper program on computer

\$7.99

Anthony Caruana

[via iTunes Store](#)

Hand to Hand Combat

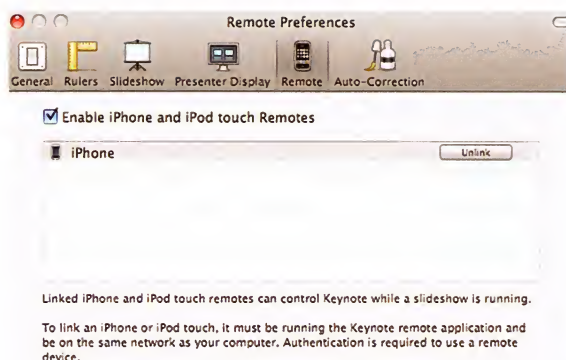
iPhone Presentation Remotes

Anyone who regularly gives presentations using Keynote or PowerPoint needs a remote control. Without one you're tethered, by an invisible bungee cable, to your notebook every time you need to change slides.

The iPhone, with its clear display and multitouch interface, has many of the attributes you'd want in a presentation remote. However, it needs some software to do the job so Australian Macworld is taking two iPhone apps out for a run to see which make the better presentation remote.

The two programs we looked at are Apple's Keynote Remote and Stage Hand by Wooji Juice. We tested them with Keynote 5.0, released in early 2009 as part of the iWork '09 suite. Both programs connect to your Mac over Wi-Fi although they do it differently.

Apple's Remote connects by entering a four-digit PIN code into Keynote's preferences. Stage Hand requires a separate application, called Stage Manager, to run on the computer. Stage Manager is the conduit between your iPhone and Keynote. The initial set-up of each application was easy enough although Apple's abil-



ity to directly link Remote into Keynote gives this app a slight advantage.

However, Stage Manager, a free download, is easy to set up and given that set-up is likely to be a one-time event for most users we don't see Apple's approach as being especially superior.

No special network configuration was required for either application to make our iPhone see the MacBook Air we used for testing.

In order for Stage Hand to work, we had to start Stage Manager first. This, in turn, automatically launched Keynote and we then opened the presentation manually. Similarly, Apple's Remote required that Keynote was already running before it would connect. Again, neither program has an advantage over the other but we were disappointed as the trailblazer in remote control software, Salling Clicker, allows you find presentations on your file system. Although Salling Clicker runs on many mobile phones there's not an iPhone version.

Where these two applications differed significantly was in their control of a presentation. In our view, both applications had some serious shortcomings. Ironically, their strengths and weaknesses were opposites of each other. If the best of both apps were combined then we'd have close to the perfect program.

Keynote Remote has the ability to display each slide and build on the iPhone's screen. When in portrait mode, we were able to see the current slide and our speaker's notes. In landscape, we could see the current and next slides but no notes. Unfortunately, simply rotating the screen in our hands didn't rotate the display. That makes it fiddly to use because toggling between the different modes required several taps on the screen.


Stage Hand lacks any graphical slide display. However, speakers notes can be read from the iPhone's screen and each page gives an indication of the slide number, how many builds are on the slide and how many builds have been executed. It's a simple visual cue but very handy. However, the lack of a current or next slide image is a serious miss.

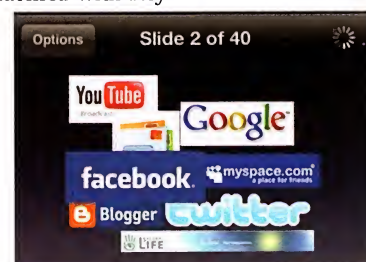
The most important thing a remote can do for a presenter is advance the slides or allow the presenter to jump to a specific slide quickly. Stage Hand did this very well. Dragging a finger across the screen resulted in a near instantaneous slide transition. On the other hand, we experienced delays with Apple's application. Furthermore, Apple's Remote slowed us down with some transitions as it wasn't ready to move as quickly as we were. We didn't suffer the same delays with Stage Hand.

Stage Hand, at \$7.99, does a better job with quick slide transitions and clearer display of speakers notes. Apple's Keynote Remote, at \$1.19, doesn't need an extra application running on your Mac and has a nice display of your slides. However, it needs a performance tweak.

Having used a variety of different presentation remotes as well as these two iPhone apps, we're still of a mind that a bespoke remote might be a better choice for those that give a lot of presentations. However, for the occasional presenter one of these iPhone apps will offer an agreeable stopgap.

In our view, neither application gets it quite right. If Stage Hand's performance could be matched with Keynote Remote's graphical display then we'd be getting close to what we'd want. However, it comes down to whether an iPhone is actually the right device to be holding during a presentation as it's probably a little bulky in the hand.

Macworld's buying advice. It's six of one and half a dozen of the other here, with neither solution pulling strongly ahead as a favourite. Apple's app is cheap, but users with Keynote presentations heavy on slide builds and needing to track slide notes will surely prefer Stage Hand. 



magazines. Communicating with other people involved the telephone or "proper" letter writing - both quite intimate or personal forms of communication.

Today, kids can email, SMS, blog, instant message, Facebook, MySpace etc which lets them engage with many more people but at a far more superficial level.

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
SRP
Reviewer
Developer
Hot links



Clearing the Login jam

Two complaints we have regarding the way that Login Items in Leopard works are that you can't choose the order in which login items open, and you can't create different sets of login items and choose to load a different one at each login.

Login items are programs and other items – for instance, an application-specific plug-in such as a calendar or other scheduling tool might require – that open automatically when you log in to your account. Each user has a list of editable login items in the Accounts preference pane.

These items are intended to improve functionality. For instance, you can create an alias of an application, such as Final Cut Pro, and designate it as a login item so that each time you start your Mac, your favourite image editor automatically launches.

Why would you want to do that? Perhaps you spend a lot of time working in different creative streams and schedule particular days for specific workflows. For instance, tomorrow you are editing movies, so your login items might include an alias for Final Cut Pro, Soundtrack Pro and Color.

LoginControl offers the ability to create and load different sets of login items in an easy-to-use package, although one that has a few limitations. When you first launch LoginControl, its Live List displays the current list of login items – the same list found in the Accounts preference pane.

You can customise the sequence in which items launch or open by dragging items up and down the list. (Keep in mind that OS X doesn't add any delay between items as they launch; it simply launches them one after another. So if you have two items that must actually launch in sequence, you should place the first at the beginning of your list and the other at the end.)

The Login Items list in Accounts automatically reflects changes you make to LoginControl's Live List, and vice versa. But the more useful feature of LoginControl is the ability to switch between multiple lists. To create a new

list, you click on the plus (+) button under Saved Lists; give the new list a name and it appears in the Saved Lists section. (If you want to create a new list based on an existing list—Saved or Live—you select the source list and then choose File: Duplicate List.)

You manage these lists just as you do the Live List; the difference is that the Accounts preference pane doesn't reflect changes to Saved Lists.

When you want to switch to a different list, select it and click on the Make Live List button that appears. The contents of the selected list replace the Live List's contents; more important, they replace the Login Items list in Accounts. The next time you log in, your Mac will use the new list of login items. (Making such a change doesn't affect which programs are currently running; login items are, as the name implies, opened at login. Once they're open, they run until you manually quit them.)

A minor limitation of LoginControl is that there's no way to rename a list; you must use the File: Duplicate List command, name the new list using your preferred name, and then delete the original.

And if you've made changes to the Live List in LoginControl, or to the official Login Items list in the Accounts preference pane, you'll want to save that list before switching to another list; if you don't, you'll lose those changes. Finally, you can't choose your list of login items at login; you have to make the choice for your next login before logging out of your current session.

To be fair, I don't know of a way for the developer to offer such a feature without some major low-level hacking of the OS.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. For users with a need to better manage their login items, this would be an invaluable tool, especially if you want to intricately manage and schedule login items to suit specific workflows. If you can afford to put it on hold, though, a later version may be more functional.

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
SRP
Reviewer
Hot links

Missing Sync for iPhone3

iPhone synchronisation
1/2
Call log notes, Notebook application
No demo version, needs some refinement
\$58
Anthony Caruana
mac.markspace.com

Missing Sync

Fixes that syncing feeling


Although iTunes and MobileMe cover the synchronisation of personal data, photos, movies and music to your iPhone, there are a few other bits and pieces that would be nice to sync. That's where Missing Sync for iPhone comes in, extending the functionality of iTunes-based syncing.

Installing Missing Sync for iPhone was straightforward. The first thing Missing Sync for iPhone offers to do is assist you with migrating from a Symbian, Palm or Windows Mobile smartphone. We weren't in a position to test that particular feature but given our past experience of Mark/Space's products we'd expect it to just work.

Missing Sync for iPhone installs a new System Preference applet for setting options and the Call Log, Notebook and SMS Log apps are added to the Applications folder. Be aware, though, that call durations are rounded off to an exact number of minutes.

The SMS Log was neat but had one very annoying feature. When an SMS conversation between ourselves and another party took place, we found that related messages were split into two bunches. This was because we were sending the messages to a local number but the other party's Caller ID was in the international format. Even though the iPhone is smart enough to put this together, the Missing Sync SMS Log was not.

Note synchronisation worked nicely. Mark/Space includes their own Notebook application. As well as being a desktop reader for your iPhone notes, it can also be used to create notes that can be synchronised back to the iPhone. Notebook also enables categorising of notes. While those categories don't appear on the iPhone, they were handy when reviewing notes on our Mac.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Missing Sync for iPhone is not an application that everyone will want or need. Most of what it does is well executed but it's a little rough around the edges. Look out for Version 2 – if it irons out the kinks we encountered it'll be a more compelling purchase. 

www.macworld.com.au

 **SENNHEISER**





Free your sound

Crystal-clear sound in its most appealing form. The MX Wireless 1 is an innovative set of entirely wireless stereo ear pieces. Uncompressed wireless stereo transmission technology by Klear® delivers clear audio reproduction. The MX Wireless 1 features a twist-to-fit system for a comfortable custom fit and a carrying case with integrated charger for many hours of music. For mobile people who accept no limits. Free your sound! www.sennheiser.com.au

For your nearest authorised dealer in
 Australia: Free Call 1800 648 628 | email sales@syntec.com.au
 New Zealand: Free Call 0800 100 755 | email sales@syntec.co.nz



klear
cut loose.



Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
RRP
Manufacturer
Distributor
Reviewer
Hot links

Nikon Coolpix S60

Digital still camera
Rating: 4.5/5
Pros: Longish 5x optical zoom; big LCD touch screen
Cons: Limited exposure options
RRP: \$549
Manufacturer: Nikon
Distributor: Nikon Australia
Reviewer: Barrie Smith
Hot links: www.nikon.com.au



Nikon Coolpix S60

Small and stylish

Flat as the proverbial tack, this is a fresh look from Nikon in digicam styling. The Nikon Coolpix S60 has a touchscreen interface and only two external controls: the power and shutter buttons. It has a 5x image shift-stabilised Nikkor lens that does not poke out from the body – quite a design feat!

With no optical viewfinder you must use the large, rear 8.9 cm wide screen LCD screen – and they don't come much bigger than that.

The S60 captures 10 megapixels, enough to make a 31cmx24cm print from a maximum image size of 3648x2736 pixels. You can also shoot SD-style 640x480 movies at 30fps and there is an HDMI output so you can run a slide show of your 1920x1080 still images.

The touchscreen comes into play in quite a radical way as the S60 offers an auto focus lock: you set up your shot, touch an element in the shot (a face, moving car) and the camera follow focuses that subject, even if you reframe.

Like almost every digicam worth its salt these days, the face priority mode can set focus and exposure for any number of faces up to 12. And there's more – a Smile Timer function fires the shutter when the camera detects a smile on a subject's face.

Like graffiti? Nikon thoughtfully supplied a small stylus so you can decorate a recent image. You can scribble over it, add notes, splatter hearts and even stretch the image.

In the exposure department there is only Program AE but 18 special scene modes will take care of portraits, sports shots, sunsets etc.

The S60 comes in four colours: dark purple, pearl white, bordeaux red, or pale pink.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The shots I took with the S60 were fully colour saturated with very good sharpness. This is an excellent camera for the style-seeker and traveller who needs an ultra-compact digicam.

Sony DSC-T700

Digital still camera.
Rating: 4.5/5
Smart looker
Some may dislike the tiny controls
\$599
Sony
Sony Australia
Barrie Smith
www.sony.com.au



Sony DSC-T700

Fashion plate

First, a warning: if you hate cameras with tiny controls and tiny labels, look away... this one is not for you. It's a fashion item, weighing just 115gm with memory card and battery loaded.

You'll need sharp eyesight to find the external controls but eventually you'll pick out the small power and shutter buttons, plus a tiny zoom lever on the camera's right hand corner. Then you'll discover the replay button – black, like the camera's rear.

Among its features are a 10.1 megapixel CCD; a 4x optically stabilised zoom lens; an 8.8cm LCD touchscreen; and 4GB internal memory. But with all this, the T700 is not an enthusiast's camera. Its 4GB internal memory can store nearly a thousand pictures at highest resolution.

Its maximum image setting delivers a 31cmx23cm print at 300dpi. Movie mode captures 640x480 pixel video clips and with an optional adaptor you can connect the camera's component output to a high-def TV to watch 1920x1080 pixel stills.

Face detection finds up to eight faces in a scene, then sets focus, flash output, exposure, white balance and red eye removal. Sub settings include one that gives priority to a child's face as well as an adult setting plus a smile shutter that can detect a set of grinning snappers. The Anti-blink mode shoots two images in quick succession, ensuring you get at least one shot with the subject's eyes open.

A bonus is an internal retouching feature that ensures no red eye problem is missed: you can touch up shots in-camera with 10 edit functions that crop a picture, apply unsharp masking, partly colourise an image, add cross filters and radial blurs plus.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Quick in use, with loads of useful functions, the T700 looks great and easily takes above average shots.

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
RRP
Reviewer
Developer
Hot links

SimCity
iPhone app
★★★★½
Does a good job of recreating the desktop gaming experience. Outstanding usability
Tends to crash as city population grows
\$7.99
Chris Oaten
Electronic Arts
via iTunes Store



Sim blows DS version out of the water

For some time now the suggestion has been about that Apple's iPhone is a serious contender to the throne of best mobile gaming platform, possibly supplanting Nintendo's DS. SimCity for iPhone proves this could be a real possibility.

For those not familiar with one of the best-selling games of the last 20 years, SimCity turns the player into the mayor of a metropolis, with the power to determine development zones (residential, commercial or industrial) and provide city services to its denizens. These services include police, health, education, public transport systems and waste management services.

If all goes well and the mayor balances all the variables correctly, a metropolis grows to become increasingly complex - and compelling - as development continues.

If things don't go well, or even if they do, the player can destroy their creation in numerous creative ways - with a UFO invasion or a tornado. Or both.

As a long-time player of SimCity, going all the way back to SimCity 2000, I was excited to play the version made for DS. The excitement, however, was short-lived. The interface was clunky, the graphics were dull, the gameplay not very rewarding.

The version made for iPhone blows the DS version out of the water because it is so much more fun to play, with an ingenious use of the iPhone's touchscreen making up for much of the difference between the two platforms.

For instance, the iPhone loops through five levels of enlargement with a double-tap of the screen, and what was expected to be the game's downfall - the laying of roads and development zones - is, as it turns out, disarmingly simple.

While you expect to have to be perfectly accurate with the placement of roads, instead the game won't plop the road before giving you the option to change its length and position. When you're happy with your editing, a

touch on the tick button cements it in place. The same goes for other zone and object placements.

Early assessments suggested this was the "whole" game based on SimCity 3000. That's not the case. Some features, such as highways, aren't on offer and other facets, such as a business deal involving monthly revenue for hosting a prison or army base, don't make any real difference to the game's city management budget.

That said, EA Games is to be applauded for making this version of the SimCity so utterly playable.

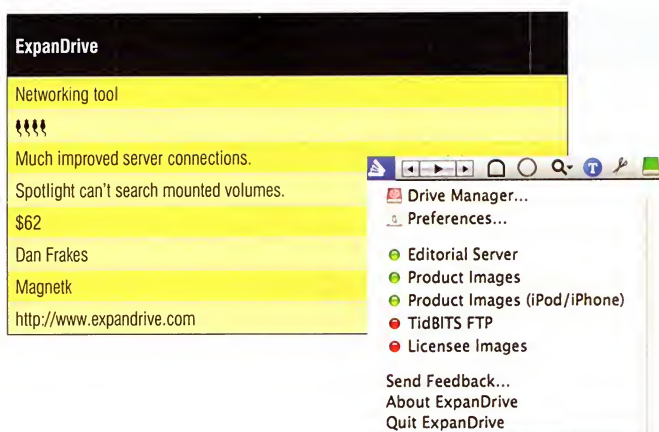
The only real gripe is that SimCity becomes unstable as your city grows and by various accounts the tipping point seems to change from one person to the next. I found a population of about 150,000 tended to bring on crashes. If you play, remember to save often.

Further app updates should render the instability issues as a distant memory - certainly two updates already released have helped - though I noticed the game was very stable while building cities on small maps, so perhaps the game is bumping into a hardware limitation.

In any case, SimCity for iPhone remains a lot of fun. There are hours of play to be had here, so the asking price may offer the most gaming bang you'll get for your iPhone buck. Highly recommended.



Type	Networking tool
Rating	★★★★
Pros	Much improved server connections.
Cons	Spotlight can't search mounted volumes.
RRP	\$62
Reviewer	Dan Frakes
Developer	Magnetik
Hot links	http://www.expandrive.com



Expand your bind

Lock in those FTP servers

Mac OS X lets you work with FTP servers in the Finder as if they were any other filesystems. All you need to do is open the Connect To Server dialog box (choose Go: Connect To Server) and enter the required server information in the format `ftp://username:password@servername`.

The only problem is that this feature doesn't really work as well as it should and many Mac users find it a source of enduring frustration. Connections are unreliable and, even when you manage to connect, the Finder's FTP functionality is read-only — not to mention that the Finder doesn't support SFTP (a secure alternative to FTP).

Because of this, Mac users who frequently access FTP and SFTP servers have generally turned to dedicated FTP clients. An appealing alternative is ExpanDrive, which gives the Finder the FTP and SFTP capabilities Mac users have long wanted.

ExpanDrive remains mostly invisible while running, performing its tasks behind the scenes. Its main interface is a small menu-bar menu and a dialog box for configuring each FTP and SFTP server you want to access. Once configured, your various servers will appear in ExpanDrive's menu. From then on, you can access a server by choosing it from that menu.

Assuming you have a valid connection to the server or share drive, it mounts in the Finder and appears in Finder sidebars, just like any other removable volume.

You can copy files to and from it and edit its contents within the limitations of your account login's server permissions. For many users who rely on accessing FTP servers to get their work done — or to enable other people to get their work done — this will be reason enough to fork out for ExpanDrive.

You can also perform other Finder actions, such as use Quick Look on remote files, compress remote files

and folders, and access ExpanDrive-mounted shares in standard Open and Save dialog boxes.

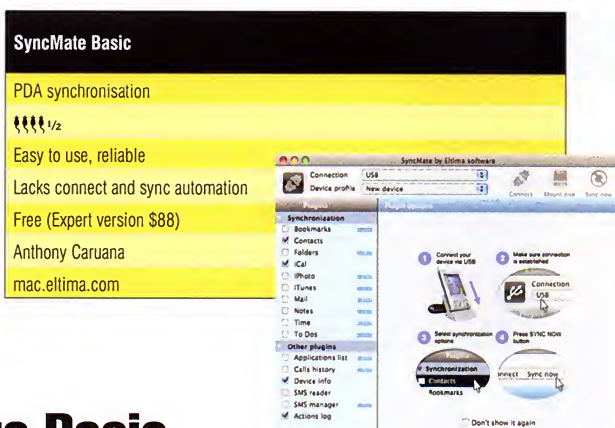
ExpanDrive also handles dropped connections gracefully. Instead of the hated spinning beach ball generated by a Finder freeze, you see a simple "not presently reachable" message when you try to access an affected server or share. This is another aspect of ExpanDrive's functionality that will have some readers already reaching for a download link. A Finder freeze is possibly the single most annoying aspect of using OS X, so a chance to avoid it, along with having to fix it (often requiring a visit to the Force Quit menu) will be a welcome one.

Even better, ExpanDrive actually monitors your connection and automatically remounts the affected servers as soon as it can reach them. This is especially useful for laptop users, who tend to put their computers to sleep and change networks often; ExpanDrive will remount your FTP and SFTP servers whenever it detects a network connection.

Given that the FTP and SFTP protocols don't support Mac resource forks or Mac metadata, you'll want to compress files with such data before copying them to an FTP or SFTP server. Also, Spotlight doesn't index FTP and SFTP volumes, so you can't search ExpanDrive-mounted servers. Finally, because FTP isn't implemented the same way everywhere, not every FTP server will work perfectly with ExpanDrive.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Its price will deter the casual FTP user but for anyone who needs a reliable FTP connection, there are few (if any) better tools available for the Mac than ExpanDrive. It will rescue users from a lot of downtime wasted by reconnecting to servers and that means more seamless productivity.

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
RRP
Reviewer
Hot links



SyncMate Basic

Basic by name, not by nature, and worth the upgrade to the pro version.

Until recently, there wasn't a lot of competition when it came to synchronising content from a Windows Mobile device to your Mac. PocketMac was first to market but we've found it to be unstable to the point that we removed it from our systems. Mark/Space's The Missing Sync came next and is a simply brilliant application but it comes with a \$65 price tag. SyncMate Basic promises much of what The Missing Sync offers but at no cost.

After downloading SyncMate Basic, at a very lightweight 7.8MB, we ran the installer with no problems, although it did require a reboot for set-up to complete. As the name implies, SyncMate Basic covers the most elementary data synchronisation needs with iCal and Contacts covered. One feature that stood out was the ability to natively synchronise with Google's online address book and calendar services.

When we connected our Windows Mobile device to our system, a small application was automatically sent to it by SyncMate. Once the set-up on the device was complete, clicking the "sync" button on the desktop software copied our information between the Mac and PDA.

Device support is broad. Although the compatibility list supplied by Eltima is limited to a small number of Windows Mobile 6 devices, we were able to connect older devices running Windows Mobile 5. The only proviso was that we had to ensure devices were set to RNDIS Sync Mode rather than USB Serial Sync Mode where there was a choice.

Unlike many other sync applications, SyncMate doesn't automatically initiate a connection between your Mac and the handheld – you need to press the Connect button. Although we found this a little annoying it's certainly not a deal-breaker. Furthermore, synchronisation required another click.

For users that need more than iCal and Address Book syncing, the Expert version adds a stack of extra options including iPhoto, iTunes, Notes, Call History, Mail and several other options.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Our experience of SyncMate Basic is that it's a reliable application that does what it's designed to do with a minimum of fuss. The paid upgrade to the Expert version looks to be good value and offers all the sync options we can think of.

Pentagon Digital - Celebrating 26yrs in business!

BACK TO WORK & SCHOOL SPECIALS!

- iWork - New Keynote, Numbers & Pages
- iLife - New iPhoto, iMovie, iWeb & Garageband
- Facebook & GPS integration in iPhoto - from \$125

The world's thinnest & lightest 17" Laptop!

FROM \$4990

- 8 Hour Battery
- Up 2.93GHz
- 60% better colour with new LED Screen
- Nvidia 9600M Graphics Card

New White MacBook just arrived!

- NVIDIA 9400M GRAPHICS CARD
- 2.0GHz 2GB RAM
- 120GB HD

FROM ONLY \$1599*

iMac Specials!

- iMac 20" 2.4GHz/1GB/250GB HDD - \$1599*
- FREE** RAM Upgrade to 2GB!
- iMac 20" 2.6GHz/2GB/320GB HDD - \$1949*
- iMac 24" 2.8GHz/2GB/320GB HDD - \$2349*

Business Solution Centre for:

- **Networking & Xserve server technology**
(with Archiware's Prestore Backup)
- **Macintosh & Windows environments**
(Parallels, VMWare Fusion)
- **Accounting & Point of Sale**
(MYOB, Connected Accounting, POS-IM, Lightspeed)
- **Security & Surveillance**
(SecurityCam, Milestone)

SEE ONLINE FOR MORE PRODUCTS!

+ SERVICE REPAIR CENTRE- MACS, IPODS & ALL APPLE PRODUCTS +

ONSITE SERVICE & TRAINING AVAILABLE

APPLE AUTHORISED SERVICE PROVIDER

PENTAGON digital 9896 1555

Cnr Union & Whitehorse Rd Mont Albert 3127
Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 11am-3pm
*Conditions apply/while stocks last
www.pentagon.net.au sales@pentagon.net.au

Type
Rating
Pros
Cons
SRP
Reviewer
Hot links

Dropbox

Online file storage
★★★★½
Free, fast, easy to use, multi-platform
None
Free for 2GB, \$150 per year for 50GB
Anthony Caruana
www.getdropbox.com



Dropbox

A file-syncing service that stashes important files in the cloud for free? Priceless.

Dropbox is a simple to use service that does just one thing but does it very well. It's a folder synchronisation service that monitors a folder on your computer and keeps a copy of that folder on a server somewhere in the "cloud". Once it's up and running, there's nothing for you to do. All the files in your Dropbox folder are automatically synced to the cloud.

Installation was straightforward. Once we'd downloaded the set-up program we ran the installer. After a few moments we had a fresh icon in the menu bar.

In order to use Dropbox you need to create a user account. There was no need to provide any credit card details in order to use the free 2GB service.

By default, the new Dropbox folder that's created on your Mac has a number of sub-folders. These are set up to make it easy to share specific types of content with other people. For example, there's a Photos folder that makes it easy to give friends and family access to some of your photos.

When you first open your Dropbox, you will find some images in the photos folder. Don't worry, the nice people at Dropbox put them there as samples.

Certainly, this is also easy using a MobileMe or Flickr account, which are popular choices for Mac users, but the easy integration with your normal filing system makes Dropbox one of the simpler solutions we've seen.

Dropbox has at least two main functions that we think makes it worth considering. Firstly, if you have several computers, you can install Dropbox on each computer and have your working files automatically synced across each system. For example, if you have an iMac in the office but carry a MacBook while travelling, keeping your working documents in Dropbox makes it painless to keep your working files updated on both systems.

Another handy sharing trick can be achieved by right-clicking on a file in your Dropbox public folder. The contextual menu pop-up will display a Dropbox

sub-menu. If you right-click this sub-menu an option to "Copy public link" is offered. You can paste this link into an email and send it to a recipient for a quick and dirty file-sharing solution.

For travellers, Dropbox makes it easy to maintain a backup of your work. If your portable Mac meets with an accident then your documents will be safe. You can log into your Dropbox account from any browser to access your files so that you can keep working from another computer. Being multi-platform, it won't matter that your main system is a Mac as Dropbox also works on Windows and Linux systems.

In fact, we've been running Dropbox on two Macs, a Windows system and a notebook running Linux. Our Dropbox was kept seamlessly synchronised across all four systems.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. It's hard to give buying advice for something that's free. However, we suggest that most users will find a use for Dropbox. It makes syncing files between systems dead easy and offers a solid backup solution for mobile users. We've been testing Dropbox for several weeks and it passes the "it just works" test - even on an iPhone.



Finder



PH: 133 622
Web: www.apple.com.au
Pages: 2 & 3



PH: 02 9462 7500
Email: sales@eizo.com.au
Web: www.eizo.com.au
Page: 80



All the music you want. All over your house.

PH: 03 9885 5888
Web: www.playback.com.au
Page: 14



PH: 1300 768 112
Web: www.soundtechnology.com.au
Page: 79



PH: 1800 028 316 (Aust)
 0800 444 929 (NZ)
Web: www.filemaker.com.au
Pages: 8 & 27



PH: 03 9818 2100
Email: salesteam@streetwise.com.au
Web: www.streetwise.com.au
Page: 61



PH: 1 800 817 1471
Email: info@circusponies.com
Web: www.circusponies.com
Page: 33



PH: 02 9502 6565
Web: www.h-digital.com.au
Page: 31



PH: 1800 648 628 (AU) 64 9 263 9885 (NZ)
Email: sales@syntec.com.au
Web: www.syntec.com.au
Page: 67



PH: 1800 334 684
Email: sales@designwyse.com.au
Web: www.designwyse.com.au
Pages: 4 & 5



PH: 1300 721 769
Web: www.keyoptions.com.au
Page: 58



PH: 02 9906 5227
Email: info@tryandbyte.com.au
Web: www.tryandbyte.com.au
Page: 43



South Melbourne 64 Clarendon St,
PH: 03 9684 3600
Malvern 1420 High Street,
PH: 03 9508 2600
Geelong Level 1 Westfield Shopping Centre,
PH: 03 5223 1550
South Yarra 409a Chapel St,
PH: 03 9827 5011
Chadstone Lower Level Chadstone Shopping Centre,
PH: 03 9568 8655
RMIT On-Campus Building 10, Level 4, Swanston Street
PH: 03 9654 8111
Doncaster Level 1 Westfield Shopping Centre
PH: 03 9684 3688
Monash On Campus Building 10, Campus Centre, Clayton
PH: 03 9684 3655
UTS On-Campus Level 2, 235 Jones Street, Ultimo
PH: 02 9951 7940
Crows Nest 222 Pacific Hwy,
PH: 02 9951 7979
UNSW On-Campus Quadrangle Main Campus, Randwick
PH: 02 9385 2377
Email: sales@compnow.com.au
Web: www.compnow.com.au
Page: 13



PH: 03 9662 9666 (Melbourne) 02 8383 1600 (Sydney)
Web: www.mymac.com.au
Page: 17 & 29



PH: 03 9823 0999
Email: info@verbatim.com.au
Web: www.verbatim.com.au
Page: 25



PH: 1300 361 119
Email: sales@nextbyte.com.au
Web: www.nextbyte.com.au
Page: 11

Other World Computing

PH: 815 338 8658
Email: sales@macsales.com
Web: www.macsales.com
Pages: 6 & 7



PH: 03 9896 1555
Email: sales@pentagon.net.au
Web: www.pentagon.net.au
Page: 71



Australian Macworld 2009 READER SURVEY

Australian Macworld would like to get to know you better... this is your chance to tell us about what you want!

Visit www.macworld.com.au/readersurvey

Australian Macworld is the magazine for Australian Mac users. It's your magazine. And we want to make it as relevant to your interests as we possibly can. Which is why we're asking you to visit our website and let us know who you are, what interests you, and what you want to see in your monthly focus on all things Mac.



AUSTRALIAN Macworld

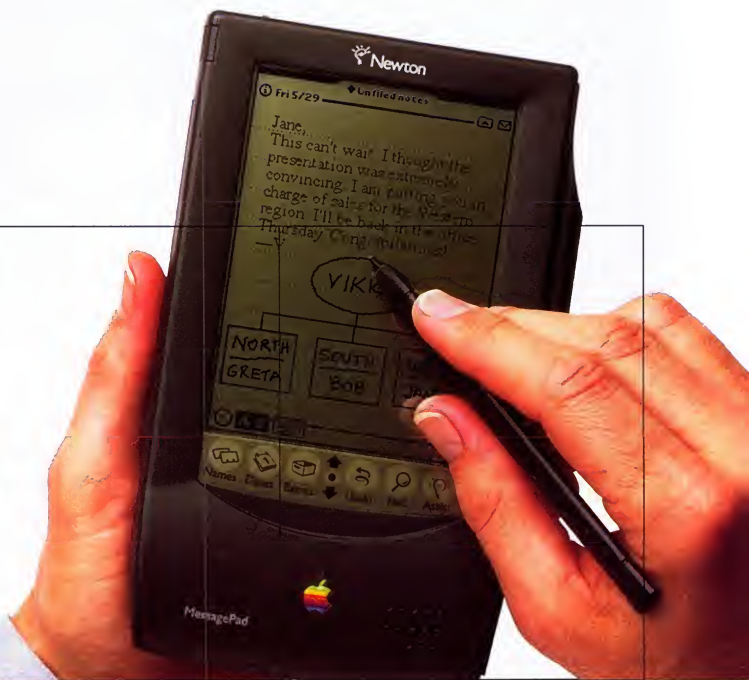
PRIZES
TO WIN!

We want to know what you want, It's your **Mac**, It's your **World**...

Complete the online survey to be in the running to win one of 30 prizes.

PLUS a bonus question for an opportunity to win an Apple Newton MessagePad H1000 — also known as the "OMP" the Original MessagePad — released in 1993. This is a rare opportunity to grab a piece of history of Apple memorabilia for one lucky entrant.

* Terms and conditions apply.



PENTAGON



PENTAGON DIGITAL BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

HUGE Discounts & Deals Online
Lots of New Products
Australia-Wide Shipping

www.pentagon.net.au

03 9896 1555 sales@pentagon.net.au

Quality Ex Demo
Superseded Macs
All sold with Warranty



330D Miller Street, Cammeray NSW 2062

Tel: (02) 99222327

Fax: (02) 99222527

Email: ndart@macsasnew.com.au

Website: www.macsasnew.com.au

Apple Secondhand Reseller

WYSIWYG

DIGITAL COLOUR PRINTING

Fast Turnaround

Competitive Prices

We use HP Indigo 5000

Offset Quality Digital Printing



Call us for a quotation today!
Freecall 1300 wysiwyg

or go to our website ▶
www.wysiwyg.com.au

Request An Estimate | Place A New Order | Send A File | View A Proof

WYSIWYG DIGITAL COLOUR PRINTING

Unit 26, 6 Herbert Street St Leonards NSW 2065

Tel 02 9922 7288 • Fax 02 9922 2788

Email sales@wysiwyg.com.au

Ground Floor 272 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000

Tel 02 9262 4888 • Fax 02 9262 1960

Email bureau@wysiwyg.com.au

On-Site Mac Service Melbourne Based

*We come to you, anywhere in the
Melbourne Metro Area*

- Apple Mac Troubleshooting
- Installation & Maintenance
- Networking & Internet Sharing • Upgrades
- Wireless Networking • Independent Advice

Phone: 1800 762 040

email: support@macaid.com.au

Mac + Aid

Now you can learn from
trainers with real hands-on
industry experience!

KeyOptions
Technology

- Mac OS X Introduction & Advanced Training
- ACSA Certification
- Xsan Administration
- Podcasting - Production & Delivery
- Final Cut Pro & Final Cut Server training
- Motion & Color
- iWork and iLife
- Tailored courses to suit your needs

www.keyoptions.com.au/training

or call 1300 721 769

Mac Centre

Apple Authorised Reseller



iPhones
Macs
Accessories
Trade-Ins
Rentals
Service & Support

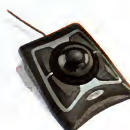
www.maccentre.com.au | 02 9281 4444
87 Albion Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Do you want to join
the world's largest
Apple reseller?

For employment opportunities
please email your resume to
hr@nextbyte.com.au



Kensington



Quality peripherals for your notebook, desktop and iPod. Proudly distributed by Try and Byte.
To view the full range of products, please visit our website.

TRY&BYTE

Unit 17, 2a Herbert St, St Leonards NSW 2065
Tel (02) 9906 5227 • Fax (02) 9906 5605

www.tryandbyte.com.au



FREE SHIPPING
\$99.95

AGENT V4 HD

www.liquiddigital.com.au

The NEW aGent V4 webcam is compatible with all your Macs with its complete range of attachment clips for iMac and Macbooks. This new generation edition is available for the low price of \$99.95 with free shipping and features a sleek design in high quality German polished steel. The high definition aGent V4 webcam is the ultimate choice for all your visual media needs. Buy yours online at www.liquiddigital.com.au

apple help?

apple computer & ipod service centre



The Mac Doctors

Apple Authorised Service Provider

459 Flinders St Townsville City Ph: (07) 4724 5889

449 Ipswich Rd Annerley Brisbane Ph: (07) 3848 9438

Adelaide's Mac experts



iMac



iPhone/iPod



MacBook Pro

Exciting new store - 08 8260 1311

free quotes.

8A Light Common
Mawson Lakes.

free parking.

sales. service.
support. upgrades.
onsite repairs.



data recovery. new/
used showroom.
ipod repairs/sales

www.macsolutions.com.au | sales@macsolutions.com.au



microseconds for Macintosh

- Service and repairs
- New and used Macs
- Great warranty
- Spare parts

**We
Buy
Macs**

Microseconds was established in 1990 and has since become one of Australia's largest retailers of second-hand Macintosh computers, parts, and peripheral equipment.

Serving the Macintosh community for fifteen years

Suite 214, 22-36 Mountain Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 • Ph: 02 9281 6392 • Fax: 02 9281 4130 • sales@microseconds.com.au • www.microseconds.com.au

Apple sales/service

- ✓ Apple Authorised Reseller
- ✓ Shop at Kew (VIC) store or on-line
- ✓ Convenient store trading hours
Monday-Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm
- ✓ Extremely competitive pricing
On new sales and Apple authorised service
- ✓ Fast turn-around for service
Average 4 business days for workshop repairs

iPod/iPhone repairs

- ✓ All iPods & iPhones repaired
Warranty iPhone 3G repairs/replacements not available
- ✓ Free assessment for iPods
A small postage fee payable if faulty iPod is to be returned after assessment; a \$66 assessment fee applies to iPhones
- ✓ 6-month warranty on parts
1 year on batteries. Terms and Conditions apply
- ✓ Well established company
We have repairing non-warranty iPods since 2005 and iPhones since 2007

Phone (03) 9855 2323 • www.synergeticaustralia.com

SECURITY CAM

Security Software & Hardware for Mac



**YOUR HOME & BUSINESS
SECURITY SPECIALISTS
03 9895 2950**

www.securitycam.com.au



It's about the product, stupid

“Shy” is not a word people use to describe me but it does take some coaxing to goad me into an everyday conversation.

Obviously, it depends on what's being discussed. Politics and sports are sidelined, but start talking tech and there you have a topic ripe for engagement. Apple, especially so.

Discussions about Apple tend to go one of two ways. There's the “I love my iPhone and my Mac” discussion. This, under normal circumstances, provides an opening to spruik the other Apple pleasures in life, such as Apple TV.

Sometimes, however, there's the “Apple is only doing well because of great marketing” line of conversation. And that point of view is just plain maddening.

There are many services in life that truly are marketing fluff. Seen those glossy ads your telco slips in to your newspaper, day after day, inevitably featuring happy, smiley people? Is that what you feel like when you call their 1300 number and have to yell into your phone because their newly minted voice activation system simply doesn't work?

Contrast this scenario with a visit to the Apple Store in Chadstone, Chatswood or Sydney, where you're greeted by staff that know and love the products. (And no, they aren't motivate by sales bonuses.)

In my mind, the top line of marketing that Apple does in Australia (mostly TV) is the least important element of the company's success.

Get an iPod, master its operation (which takes most people under the age of 70 about a minute) and you'll remember the positive experience when you next go to buy a consumer electronics item, be it a phone, computer or media centre.

In each of the areas in which Apple offers a product, its product is the easiest to use, is price-competitive and will, at a minimum, be compatible with your other Apple gear.

Apple COO Tim Cook said it well in the January earnings call: “We believe in deep collaboration and cross-pollination of our groups which allows us to innovate in a way others can not. And frankly, we don't settle for anything less than excellence in every group in the company, and we have the self-honesty to admit where we're wrong, and the courage to change”. Bravo. Which other top level exec of a computer or consumer electronics business talks like that about product design?

If you don't believe it take a look at how Apple's competition is doing. In the PC space, Apple is the only manufacturer winning market share and growing sales. All its competitors — from Dell to Microsoft — are down.

In the phone business, iPhone sales are up 88 per cent from the same time a year ago. Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Motorola are all slashing jobs and reporting losses.

Apple sold a record 23 million iPods in the quarter ending Decem-

ber, even in the midst of a deep global recession, where Sony — for the first time in the company's history — reported a multi-billion dollar loss, and Microsoft reported a 54 per cent decline in Zune revenue for the most recent quarter.

And Apple TV, the product that Apple refers to as a “hobby”, is selling three times as many as the same time last year. Cook said “we continue to invest because we fundamentally believe there is something there for us in the future”.

How's this for a prediction? Apple will elevate Apple TV from “hobby” to a leading product line in the next 12 months.

Setting the complexity of designing software and hardware to one side, Apple's competitors still haven't figured out that having one great model (of computer, music player or phone) is better than having 10 bad ones. With the complexity of life, a relatively basic product range sends many signals to customers before they've even laid hands on your offerings.

While Apple's competitors may choose to simplify their product line, they should also pay close attention to product names. Simple names such as iPhone, iMac and iPod are memorable, model numbers like W902, dv2800 or N81 aren't.

So, do me a favour. Next time you hear your friends point to marketing for the sole reason behind Apple's success... “Tell 'em they're dreaming”. ☞

BACK TO SCHOOL CASH BACK WITH CASIO!



Purchase any Casio keyboard
or digital piano from a Casio Musical
Instrument Retailer between
January 1st and March 31st 2009 and
get 5% Cash Back!*

Visit
www.soundtechnology.com.au
for more details.

* Terms and conditions apply.

CASIO®

SOUND TECHNOLOGY

Eizo monitors

The essence of a professional.

Advanced LCD colour management made easy | www.eizo.com.au

ColorEdge CGWide Range

16 bit colour processing

Delivering unparalleled detail and accuracy. Trust that your final product will look exactly the way you designed it to be.

Wide colour space

See all the colours of your creation with EIZO's CGWide colour gamut.

D.U.E.

Digital Uniformity Equalization. For perfectly uniform image display, corner to corner.

